

India says bomb caused crash

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government said on Tuesday the Air India plane crash off Ireland last June was caused by a bomb in the aircraft's forward cargo hold. In a written report submitted to an official enquiry, it said the bomb was in the baggage of a man named M. Singh put on the Boeing 747 at Toronto airport although he was not on board and did not have a confirmed reservation for the flight. The baggage was wrongly transferred from a Canadian Pacific (CP Air) flight from Vancouver which Singh failed to board, the report said. Its conclusion that the crash was caused by "detonation of an explosive device in the forward cargo compartment of the aircraft" matched evidence by British, U.S. and Indian experts at the enquiry hearings. The crash killed all 329 people on board.

Jordan Times

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U.S. delays vote on arms sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee agreed on Tuesday to postpone indefinitely a vote on U.S. plans to sell arms to Jordan, a delay sought by the Reagan administration after it realised there was overwhelming congressional opposition to the proposal. The informal decision came after Secretary of State George Shultz sent a letter saying congressional defeat of an arms package for Jordan "at this time would severely damage the ongoing (peace) process." Mr. Shultz's letter was also sent to the Senate. Mr. Shultz promised to give Congress 30 days' notice if he wants to revive the proposal and said no attempt will be made if Congress is not in session. The \$1.9-billion deal was for the sale of 40 jet fighters and batteries of mobile missiles to Jordan.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Crown Prince, Thatcher hold talks

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday on bilateral relations as well as the latest developments in the Middle East. The meeting was attended by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Mu'asher and Jordan's Ambassador to Britain Nabih Al Nimer. The Crown Prince earlier chaired a dialogue at the British central bank. The dialogue was attended by senior Jordanian officials and representatives of British banks. Prince Hassan is expected to attend another dialogue on Wednesday on scope of British-Jordanian cooperation in the fields of trade, finance, scientific research and industrial development.

3 injured in Tel Aviv blast

TEL AVIV (AP) — A small bomb exploded in a Tel Aviv suburb, lightly wounded three pedestrians, Israel Radio reported Tuesday. The bomb was planted in a garbage can at a bus stop in a downtown street, the radio said. According to the radio report, 50 Palestinians were rounded up by police in a search of the area after the blast.

Bomb defused at Eiffel Tower

PARIS (R) — Police defused a large bomb found in a third-floor toilet of the Eiffel Tower just one and a half hours before it was due to explode, French Television said on Tuesday. The report said a large bomb had been discovered in a toilet on the recently renovated Eiffel Tower's third floor and was defused Monday night. The report said it had been timed to go off at midnight GMT Monday night. The bomb was disarmed just as another exploded in a crowded shopping arcade in the busy Avenue des Champs Elysees, injuring eight people (See page 8). There was no claim of responsibility for either bomb.

Shultz appeals for funds to protect U.S. mission

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz asked Congress on Tuesday to approve 1,500 new jobs and a 45 per cent boost in spending to protect American diplomats and U.S. embassies abroad. Despite laws requiring deep cuts throughout the federal budget to reduce the deficit, Mr. Shultz called for a \$4.4-billion security authorisation through 1990.

Soviet official ends Iran visit

TEHRAN (R) — Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kornienko left Iran on Tuesday after a three-day visit which both sides said was constructive and successful. Mr. Kornienko, who headed the highest Soviet political team to visit Iran since its 1979 revolution, told Tehran Radio his talks with senior officials had been "useful, pleasant and constructive."

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Jordan denounces Israeli 'air piracy,' backs Syrian call

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Tuesday strongly condemned the hijacking by Israeli warplanes of a Libyan jet carrying Syrian officials from Tripoli, Libya, to Damascus and supported Syria's call for an urgent U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss the Israeli action.

His Majesty King Hussein contacted Syrian President Hafez Al Assad over the phone and voiced Jordan's total support for Syria's stand vis-a-vis the Israeli air piracy which endangers civil aviation in the region, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said the King also instructed the government to take all measures to support Syria at international forums and reveal "Israel's illegal practices in the Middle East region as part of a series of organised international terrorism."

The Libyan plane, an executive jet carrying nine passengers and a crew of three was intercepted by two Israeli warplanes about 80 kilometres east of Cyprus and forced to land in an Israeli air base. The plane was allowed to take off about five hours after the landing. The Israeli military said the plane was "suspected of carrying people involved in planning attacks against Israel." But only Syrian politicians were aboard the plane. The politicians were returning home after attending a conference in the Libyan capital.

Among the passengers aboard the plane was Abdullah Al Ahmad, assistant secretary-general of Syria's ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party. In Damascus, a senior official of the Popular Front for the Lib-

eration of Palestine (PFLP) said the Israeli action was the second attempt to kidnap PFLP leader George Habash, who also attended the Tripoli conference and had been expected to fly back to Syria on Tuesday.

The Syrian government issued a statement condemning the seizure of the Libyan plane as air piracy and called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to "take effective measures to put an end to air piracy and terrorism exercised by Israel."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a called in the five ambassadors in Damascus of the permanent members of the Security Council and told them that Syria held Israel fully responsible for the hijacking, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said.

In a message to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Shara'a called the hijacking "a flagrant violation of international law and international agreements ensuring the freedom and safety of air navigation," SANA said.

"I want to call your attention to the seriousness of this terrorist incident against the safety and security of civil aviation in Syria and international airspace, and to its serious consequences," he added.

"I demand the taking of immediate steps and measures to in-

vestigate the fate of the plane, its passengers and crew, to secure their safety, and to inform the chairman and members of the Security Council of this action."

The plane, a twin-engine Gulfstream jet, landed at Damascus airport later Tuesday. The passengers and crew were met by senior Syrian officials.

In Amman, Foreign Minister Taher Al Wasri also condemned the hijacking and said it was not the first time Israel violated international laws and norms and encroached upon other countries' sovereignty and endangered the life of civilians.

Jordan considers this serious incident as an act of air piracy and a new operation in Israel's organised international terrorism, said a statement issued by Mr. Wasri. "Jordan calls on the international community in general and Israel's friends in particular to shoulder their responsibilities with regard to this Israeli action and force Israel to put an end to its acts of air piracy exercised in violation of the sovereignty and security of other states and to respect international laws," the statement said.

Mr. Wasri later called in the ambassadors in Jordan of the five permanent members of the Security Council and conveyed to them Jordan's "strong, determined condemnation of the Israeli terrorist operation, which constitutes a direct threat to the security of the region and the world at large," Petra said. Mr. Wasri asked the ambassadors to convey Jordan's position to their respective governments.

In Washington, the U.S. Defence Department denied involvement in the hijacking.

"There was no U.S. military

(Continued on page 3)

Gemayel loyalists and leftist rivals renew war for supremacy

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel's loyalist troops and militia men battled on Tuesday in and around Beirut with an alliance of Syrian-backed militias seeking to topple the Christian leader.

Police said two people were killed and four wounded in clashes along Beirut's dividing green line and the hills to the east.

Among the fatalities was an Indian worker identified by police as Kewal Singh.

Several mortar rounds and rockets struck residential neighbourhoods close to the demarcation line that slices the city into mostly Christian eastern and predominantly Muslim western sectors during the exchanges between the rival factions.

Fighting also raged around the Lebanese army mountaintop garrison of Souq Al Gharb between army soldiers and militia men of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

Four civilians were wounded during the tank and artillery duels which continued sporadically through the day, police reported.

Souq Al Gharb, 13 kilometres east of Beirut, is a strategic location that commands all roads leading from the central mountains to Mr. Gemayel's palace in suburban Baabda.

Leftist factions backed by Syria have been clashing daily with Mr. Gemayel's loyalists since his bloody showdown with pro-Syrian Christian rivals on Jan. 15.

Elie Hobeika, who had signed a peace pact with PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri, was defeated in street battles.

The feud left 350 people killed and undermined the Syrian-backed accord signed Dec. 28 in Damascus.

The Christian heartland has also been plagued by a new wave of bombing. Nine people

(Continued on page 2)

Falangsists badly split, page 2

Foes and former allies pressure Gemayel, page 4

Launch-day temperature cooler than shuttle's booster design, producer says

CAPE CANAVERAL (Agencies) — The space shuttle booster rockets — prime suspect in the Challenger disaster — were not designed for use in weather as cold as on launch-day, a spokesman for the rocket manufacturer said on Tuesday.

However, the spokesman, Gilbert Moore of Morton Thiokol Inc. said the freezing weather had nothing to do with the explosion that destroyed the shuttle and killed the seven astronauts aboard.

Officials of the U.S. space agency declined to comment on the matter or disclose the temperature rules they followed in the operation of the twin boosters, the largest solid-fuel rockets ever built.

Salvage crews on Tuesday scolded back the search for Challenger wreckage in the Atlantic as the investigation of the tragedy fell under the control of a newly appointed presidential commission.

Moore said the twin 50-metre boosters were not designed for use in temperatures below 40 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees C) or to be stored in temperatures below freezing.

He insisted, however, that the sub-freezing temperatures that gripped central Florida on launch day last Tuesday "were not experienced long enough to have done any real harm."

"It had nothing to do with the accident," he said.

Meanwhile, the chief of a presidential commission charged with conducting an impartial investigation of the Challenger disaster promises not to be "unfairly critical of NASA" and says he believes the space agency is doing an excellent job.

William P. Rogers, former secretary of state, was named by President Ronald Reagan on Monday to head the probe of the explosion. Mr. Reagan ordered the group to deliver its final report within 120 days.

Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, was named vice chairman of the commission.

Other members include Chuck Yeager, the test pilot who was first to break the sound barrier; astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman in space; and Nobel

laureate Richard P. Feynman.

Half the 12 members appointed on Monday have past or present ties to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Under an executive order signed by Mr. Reagan, eight more members may be named.

Their charge is to find out what happened, why it happened, and to fix it — simple as that," White House spokesman Larry Speakes said.

The establishment of the independent commission took away responsibility for the investigation from NASA, although it still will provide most of the technical analysis of the Challenger malfunction.

"This will give the American people the opportunity to know that an outside group of experts, distinguished Americans who have no axe to grind either way, have come in to review the findings of NASA and to request additional data and report to (Mr. Reagan)," Speakes said.

Shuttle blast — a big setback, page 5

King inaugurates direct television link between Jordan and Dublin universities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday inaugurated a direct television link between the University of Jordan and the University of Dublin in Ireland. The television link will be used for exchanging scientific lectures between the two universities.

The King greeted the Irish president through the television link and briefed him on the development of education in the Kingdom throughout the last three decades in the various fields. The King said that one-third of Jordan's human power contributes to the general development, locally as well as in other countries in the region, particularly in the Gulf area.

The King reviewed education in Jordan and its role in the general development and the goals of the five-year development plan in developing science and technology.

The King called on Irish sci-

entists to contribute to expanding the field of knowledge and to promote understanding and the exchange of information for the benefit of both countries.

The King expressed his happiness on this occasion which aims at the exchange of scientific experience between Jordan and Ireland and the utilisation of this experience in the service of international development.

The King said that Jordan and Ireland should be proud to start this pioneering project.

He said that the new project helps the exchange of expertise in the field of purification of water and its treatment and the management of Jordan's important resources.

The King thanked all institutions in Jordan and Ireland and international institutions which contributed to the success of this project. The television link is established through the Intelsat satellite.

The Irish president responded to the King's statement by expressing his appreciation for the efforts of all who contributed to this project in Jordan and Ireland.

The Irish president said that his country, which has a great interest in the promotion of education, has been hosting a large number of foreign students. He expressed hope that the new project would be the beginning for cooperation between the two countries.

University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Majali also exchanged greetings with the president of Dublin University.

The University of Jordan will be receiving 16 lectures that cover 20 subjects in the fields of water architecture, water management and other subjects. This programme will continue until May 20.

This television link is the first of its kind in the region and the second in the world through which lectures are broadcast live.

Mubarak calls for new formula to reconcile U.S., PLO positions

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said on Tuesday he favours linking PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist with acknowledgement of the Palestinian people's right to determine their own future.

In remarks to reporters, Mr. Mubarak obliquely called on the United States to accept the principle of Palestinian self-determination within a confederation with Jordan.

Mr. Mubarak said last week's talks in Amman between King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat "have not failed."

No progress was made in the Amman talks because the PLO leader refused to accept United Nations resolutions recognising Israel's right to exist unless the United States guarantees the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The United States has demanded PLO recognise the resolutions before the PLO can participate in peace talks under the umbrella of an international conference. "Our position is that we tell him (Mr. Arafat) look for a formula to accept the resolutions and to provide for the Palestinians' right to self-determination," Mr. Mubarak said.

Egypt has reservations on Israel's Taba offer

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak said on Tuesday Egypt had some reservations about Israel's conditional acceptance of arbitration to settle a dispute over the Sinai border strip of Taba.

But Mr. Mubarak told reporters after talks with Yugoslav President Radovan Vukobratovic that he welcomed Wednesday's arrival of an Israeli delegation to formulate terms for arbitration.

He said some of Israel's 14 points accepting arbitration were "constructive, though we have reservations on some." He did not elaborate. Israel said all points were negotiable.

The 14 points, announced last month, included the return of Egypt's ambassador to Israel, who was withdrawn in 1982 because of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli cabinet decided on Tuesday to send three senior officials to Egypt.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the talks in Cairo would focus on the Israeli 14-point formula.

Speaking on Israel Radio after the cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said the cabinet authorised the wording of the question which it wants to put to the international arbitrator who will decide Taba's fate.

The Israeli team will include the director-general of Shamir's office, David Kimche, director-general of Peres's office, Avraham Tamir, and Uri Talmor, an advisor to Defence Minister Rabin.

In an apparent plea to the United States, Mr. Mubarak added: "Why are we afraid of the right to self-determination within the framework of the Jordanian-PLO agreement of last Feb. 11?"

"Let the Palestinians work out their own formula," Mr. Mubarak said. "We are not going to tell them so."

He denied that he had given the PLO an ultimatum on acceptance of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

In December, Mr. Mubarak told the American television network NBC that Mr. Arafat would be a "big fat loser" if he failed to accept the resolutions. He said in the taped interview that he expected Jordan to wait "maybe one, two months" for the PLO to act before trying other avenues for peace.

The French newspaper le Monde later quoted Mr. Mubarak as setting a Jan. 27 deadline for PLO acceptance.

"There was no warning (to the PLO)," Mr. Mubarak said in reply to a reporter's question about le Monde's version of the interview.

"Are you going to act like le Monde and some Kuwaiti newspapers? Are you going to listen to what these newspapers are saying?"

Mr. Mubarak fielded reporters questions after conferring with

Yugoslav President Radovan Vukobratovic.

He said he and Mr. Vukobratovic were "in full agreement on all points" regarding Middle East peace efforts.

In Abu Dhabi, a senior PLO official was quoted on Tuesday as urging the United States to work for amendment of Resolution 242 so it would guarantee the national rights of Palestinians.

Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the PLO, told Al Itihad newspaper:

"The Americans can do this basic thing. They should improve Resolution 242 by coming to the Security Council and making proposals as they did in 1967, to add the national rights of the Palestinians."

Mr. Kaddoumi expressed pessimism that Washington would support an amendment, however. "The Reagan administration is the most radical administration (of) recent U.S. presidents in its attitude against the PLO and the national rights of the Palestinian people..."

"With the Reagan administration, amending 242 is not so easy."

Mr. Kaddoumi said he did not think Jordan would succeed in changing the U.S. position.

TASS blames Paris for expulsions

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency TASS on Tuesday reported the expulsions of Soviet and French embassy staff from Paris and Moscow and said France was fully to blame.

In Paris, French commentators differed over the gravity of the spying row.

The TASS report of a Foreign Ministry protest to the French embassy in Moscow on Saturday was the first mention by the state media of the affair which was made public in Paris on Monday.

Western diplomats said they did not expect the expulsion of four staff on each side, most of them military, to have a serious impact on efforts by both sides to improve relations.

TASS said the ministry had delivered a protest to the embassy on Saturday over an "unfriendly action" by France in expelling the four personnel. They were ordered out after the arrest of a French former naval serviceman on spying charges.

"Such actions by the French side do not correspond to its declarations about the aspiration to maintain and develop good relations with the USSR," TASS said.

French personnel had been ordered out for "illicit activity," TASS said, without further details.

The French embassy named the four as Major Dominique Hilbou and Lieutenant Jean-Paul Guillard, both assistant attaches. Non-Commissioned Officer Maurice Lecuelle and Ludovic Sarraz Boumet, a junior member of the commercial section.

In Paris Thierry Wolton, author of a recent best-seller on Soviet espionage in the west, said he believed the French expulsions were not just linked with the arrest of a

French former naval serviceman on spying charges.

He told the right-wing daily le Quotidien: "For such a decision to be taken in the midst of the French election campaign, I maintain that it could be only because a very big affair is involved."

The independent left-wing Liberation, however, while saying the expulsions showed the importance France attached to the arrest of former air force helicopter mechanic Bernard Sureau, 40, doubted whether he was really "a big fish of Soviet espionage in France."

Both Liberation and the pro-government daily le Matin said socialist President Francois Mitterrand had acted swiftly and firmly, though neither expected the decision to cause serious damage to Franco-Soviet relations.

U.S. ambassador to East Germany Francis Meehan, a long-standing acquaintance of East German mediating lawyer Wolfgang Vogel, was also at his desk in East Berlin.

Some Western officials said the sudden publicity could even move both Washington and Moscow to carry out the exchange elsewhere in Europe.

They also expressed puzzlement at the apparent Soviet

House to debate draft election law soon

By Rana Sabbag, Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is expected to start debate on a new draft law on elections in the next two weeks, the Jordan Times learnt Tuesday.

The draft law, which was drawn up and forwarded by the cabinet to the House in January, envisages a sweeping overhaul in the electoral process and system in Jordan.

According to some details of the draft law published by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the number of deputies in the Lower House will be increased to 120 instead of the present 60.

A senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that the Lower House Legal Committee was holding its last round of discussions on the draft law on Tuesday. The committee is expected to submit its recommendations to the full House soon and the House will begin debate immediately afterwards, the official said.

The committee has already drawn up its recommendations over number of constituencies and deputy representation, the official said. He did not elaborate.

Parliament observers believe that the committee has given the law due attention and discussion over the past 25 days. Some others point out that never in the House's recent history has any draft law been as thoroughly studied as the draft legislation on elections. The draft was presented to the House by the cabinet on Jan. 10.

"We have spent more than 10 sessions on discussing the law and formulating our recommendations," a member of the committee told the Jordan Times. He refused to elaborate but said some of the discussions were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and a number of cabinet members.

The draft law on elections promises wide-ranging reforms of the 1960 law in force, opening the door for a larger sector of the population to vote. It recognises the recent socio-economic and political developments in Jordan since 1967, Petra said in January.

Kohl confirms planned spy exchange

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl confirmed on Tuesday that an East-West spy swap was in the offing but refused comment on the grounds that it could wreck the operation.

"If I wanted to ruin the exchange I would tell the truth about it here now," Dr. Kohl told a gathering of foreign correspondents in Bonn when asked about reports of a major East-West deal in the coming days.

"There have always been spy exchanges and that's why it's being done now," he added.

Dr. Kohl said last November's Geneva summit meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had effectively paved the way for an exchange of prisoners,

as both sides had been able to discuss specific cases.

West German sources gave the first confirmation of the planned spy swap on Monday and said it would involve jailed Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky.

But they said on Tuesday they could not comment on the timing of the exchange or its exact location. U.S. sources have said it would take place in West Berlin.

Newspaper reports said Mr. Shcharansky, jailed in 1978 for 13 years on treason charges, would be freed along with 12 Western agents held in the Soviet bloc.

A bitter easterly wind blew on Tuesday across the deserted Gliencke Bridge, site of the release of U.S. spy plane pilot Gary Powers in 1962 and of 23 East Eur-

opean prisoners last year. But there was no unusual activity.

Officials from the U.S. administration involved in the last handover, including its head, John Komblum, were present on Tuesday.

U.S. ambassador to East Germany Francis Meehan, a long-standing acquaintance of East German mediating lawyer Wolfgang Vogel, was also at his desk in East Berlin.

Some Western officials said the sudden publicity could even move both Washington and Moscow to carry out the exchange elsewhere in Europe.

They also expressed puzzlement at the apparent Soviet

(Continued on page 3)

UNRWA commissioner concludes visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, commissioner general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Tuesday left Amman for Vienna at the end of a several day visit to Jordan.

During his visit, Mr. Giacomelli held talks with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and other officials with whom he reviewed UNRWA's financial situation and the recurrent deficit in the agency's budget. Mr. Giacomelli toured a number of Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan and took part in a congress on the agency's services in the field of education and health.

The two-day congress discussed working papers on UNRWA's services and Mr. Giacomelli voiced optimism over the possibility of raising sufficient funds to meet the agency's deficit. He said he is planning a tour of countries in the Gulf region, and the United States in a bid to raise more funds to finance UNRWA's operations.

Mr. Giacomelli said UNRWA will try hard to avoid any cuts in services to Palestinian refugees and will urge donor nations to fulfil their commitment to the agency.

Congress discusses education programmes

The congress, which grouped representatives of 100 Non-Governmental Organisations, Tuesday discussed UNRWA's education programmes over the past two years.

Dr. Hikmat Al Kazimi, UNRWA education supervisor, presented a working paper on the subject. His paper said that UNRWA has been providing comprehensive educational programmes to nearly two million Palestinian children in the Arab countries hosting refugees and supplying all the needed equipment and teaching aids for the purpose. In addition, UNRWA last year offered 353 students scholarships to continue their university studies in Arab countries, Dr. Kazimi added.

The paper also said that UNRWA faces growing burdens in view of the fact that the number of school children continues to increase which warrants opening more schools and supplying more equipment and teaching aids at a time when UNRWA faces a deficit in its budget.



The Lower House of Parliament in session on Tuesday

Haj Hassan requests employers to abide by labour regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaleel Haj Hassan has issued an appeal to Jordanian businessmen and industrialists to cooperate fully with his ministry in its drive to control the Jordanian labour market and he requested them to refrain from offering jobs to non-Jordanians without proper work permits or offering non-Jordanian citizens jobs that could be filled by local people.

Speaking at a meeting with the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the minister said that it is a national duty to help find employment for Jordanians and to contribute towards safeguarding national interests.

The recent measures adopted by the Ministry of Labour resulted from the growing number of Jordanians seeking employment and are an attempt to stop employers from giving jobs to non-Jordanians if local substitutes are available, Mr. Haj Hassan pointed out.

He said that the Labour Ministry is facilitating the work of businessmen and was continuing to issue work permits in order not to impede production but he emphasised that cooperation to safeguard national interests is urgently required.

The Ministry of Labour has referred 1,400 employers to court

because they have violated the ministry regulations, and it has also introduced amendments to the existing labour law under which fines will be imposed on employers violating the law and employing non-Jordanian workers without proper work permits, the minister said. The amendments should by no means be interpreted as a measure to stop businessmen, employers or factories from employing foreign workers but rather it is a way of controlling the labour market, he continued. The ministry will continue to help businesses obtain their needs of foreign labour if priority in employment is first granted to Jordanians, Mr. Haj Hassan added.

Training programmes

He said that measures issued by the government from time to time are designed to give protection to local industries and therefore the Ministry of Labour hopes that factory owners will increase training programmes for Jordanian workers to enable them to replace non-Jordanians living in Jordan on a temporary basis. The minister cited cooperation between the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) and local industrial organisations which, he said, has enabled the country to have sufficient numbers of well-trained people to

work in local organisations and factories.

Mr. Haj Hassan announced that the VTC has started conducting aptitude tests for non-Jordanian workers and technicians to ensure that they are up to the required standard.

The minister underlined the importance of coordination between employers, workers and the government in seminars and international conferences organised by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). He also said that the government has been in contact with Arab countries to support the nomination of a Jordanian for the Amman Chamber of Industry to fill the post of ALO's assistant director general.

At the meeting, it was announced that the Amman Chamber of Industry will issue a circular to all industrialists, factory owners and other employers urging them to cooperate fully with the Ministry of Labour and that it will do all it can to help implement the provisions of the labour law and other relevant regulations.

Dr. Mansour Utum, director of employment at the Ministry of Labour and the ministry's Under Secretary Dr. Saleh Al Khasawneh, were present at the meeting.

Lower House gives prime minister authority to lease state-owned land

Parliament session approves amendment to promote agricultural production

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament has entrusted the prime minister with complete authority to lease state lands in the Kingdom to any person or organisation for agricultural purposes after deputies approved an amendment to the 1986 law on the administration of state lands which was forwarded to them at the outset of Tuesday's parliament session.

Reasons for the amendment, as stated by the Prime Minister, were that the former law did not give the prime minister power to lease state lands and that the amendment will support the government's drive towards achieving national food security.

The Prime Minister's explanations, which urged the house to endorse the amendment, said that the government intends to lease land in the south and east for agricultural purposes especially for cultivating wheat, fodder and increasing animal wealth in order to achieve national food security.

Deputy Abdullah Al Akaleh protested against House Speaker Akel Al Fayez's suggestion to adjourn Tuesday's session for the legal committee to study the law and formulate its recommendations prior to endorsing the amendment. Dr. Akaleh asked how an amendment could be studied and approved in half an hour and suggested that the committee study it overnight for approval during the coming session. Deputy Ad Abu El'iz countered Dr. Akaleh's request and told the house that there was no reason not to endorse the amendment on the spot as the reasons for it were justified.

But Deputy Da'oud Da'oud suggested the house approve the amendment immediately or that the committee meets to draft its suggestions. Mr. Fayez ordered the committee to meet and the session was broken for 30 minutes. The amendment was later approved.

Observers linked Tuesday's approval of the amendment with two earlier cabinet decisions allowing Arab investors to invest in Jordan's health, agricultural, transport, industrial and medical sectors and another to study the Kingdom's southern and eastern regions for their agricultural potential.

According to Ministry of Agriculture sources, out of the Kingdom's total area of 92,000 square kilometres, 75,000 square kilometres are state-owned lands. Soils in the south and east regions are highly saline and the government has guaranteed investors that it would make available all infrastructure services needed for cultivating these lands, the ministry sources explained.

JVFA's difficulties

In another development during Tuesday's session, the house committee for agriculture urged the government to support the Jordan Valley Farmer's Association (JVFA). The agricultural

committee rapporteur Khaleel Al Fayad briefed the house on the committee's earlier meetings with Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakhan who outlined the numerous difficulties facing the agricultural sector and farmers.

Mr. Fayad said that these main difficulties as stated by Mr. Dakhan are revenues, loans and marketing problems which have not been solved due to the lack of a comprehensive and integrated agricultural policy.

Quoting Mr. Dakhan, Mr. Fayad said that there are 14 separate agricultural institutions which together have hindered the implementation of any comprehensive plan. The minister said that the Higher Committee for Agriculture was established to coordinate the various efforts and to draw up a comprehensive and well-rounded agricultural plan. The agricultural committee has endorsed the council's efforts and has urged the government to immediately execute the council's recommendations, Mr. Fayad said.

After the committee had aired its suggestions, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai commented on their remarks and on the Kingdom's policy for agriculture. Referring to the JVFA, Mr. Rifai harshly criticised the association saying that the basic reasons which called for its establishment in 1974 have not been realised. He did not elaborate but said: "Numerous reasons have contributed to the failure of the association which I can not mention now."

The government, which has always supported the association is now incapable of solving its "financial fiasco" largely due to the JVFA extending numerous loans which have not been collected, Mr. Rifai said.

Citing examples of the JVFA's debts he said: "The association's expected payments for 1986 are JD 57,000 whereas its accumulated debts will amount to JD 1,600,000. The JVFA's current assets which are JD 2 million are mostly lent as loans to farmers, while the federation's 1985 earnings were JD 17,700 while its payments exceeded JD 1 million."

According to Mr. Rifai a shortfall in the association's administration is that the JVFA law gave farmers ten seats in its board of directors while the government, represented by only five seats. "In many cases, the board of directors gave loans without solid guarantees," he said, adding that the association's administrative body, including employees, has spent more than JD 200,000 which is four times the expected.

earnings for 1986.

Mr. Rifai said that the Prime Minister's committee for finance and economy will, in its first meeting, discuss an actual and applicable visualisation for the JVFA, its aims and its future.

"In light of what I have just explained, I hope that the house agrees that a solution at the grass roots level should be formulated rather than extending more moral and financial support to the JVFA as was suggested by the agriculture committee," he said.

Mr. Rifai reassured the house of his government's commitment to solve all problems impeding the agricultural sector's progress and added that he will inform the deputies on the cabinet's economic and finance resolutions for the association. Mr. Rifai elaborated on the committee's comments regarding Jordan's agricultural policy and said that the agricultural council, which is represented by all authorities working in this field, is working to achieve a comprehensive policy for the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

"We hope to conclude all our consultations and deliberations in order to remedy all the agricultural problems as soon as possible," Mr. Rifai continued.

Deputies Rizk Al Bataineh, Fawzi Shaker Touameh and Wahid Al Ja'abari who spoke before the prime minister's explanations, urged the government to incorporate the private agricultural sector in their discussions, to encourage farmers to grow fruit trees in arid areas and to provide more facilities at low charges.

The first to speak in Tuesday's session was Deputy Bataineh who asked the government to brief the house on the latest Jordanian political moves in the regional and international arena. It is up to the prime minister to decide when he is to inform deputies and whether the briefing would be carried out in an open or closed session, he said.

A brief debate also broke out during Tuesday's session on the election of an assistant to the house speaker since this position became vacant when Deputy Na'im Al Telli passed away a month ago.

Russeini nominated as assistant to speaker

Deputy Zuhair Zoukan Al Hussein of Balqa was nominated for the post by Deputy Farah Abu Jabbar, while Deputy Da'oud Nabatu Aqaba Deputy Abu El'iz for the same position. Mr. Fayez said that house elections should be carried out but the Aqaba deputy withdrew his nomination conceding the post to Deputy Hussein.

The house scrapped a recommendation which was forwarded by Dr. Ahmad Al Koufahi on issuing health insurance cards to poor Jordanians and referred another recommendation to the house administrative committee on the feasibility of establishing a ministry for animal wealth.

Mr. Rifai, commenting on Dr.

Koufahi's suggestion, said that poor citizens can obtain case study certificates from the Ministry of Social Development which entitles them to free medical treatment cards. In other hardship cases, the prime minister said that the Ministry of Health issues them with medical insurance cards and in critical cases the government sends Jordanians for treatment abroad and pays their expenses.

In Tuesday's session, the house committee for tourism and export affairs also briefed the house on its deliberations which focused on how to encourage investments in the tourism sector.

The committee's rapporteur Edward Khamis said that all meetings were attended by the tourism minister who pledged his ministry's efforts to upgrade the tourism sector and to offer new facilities during the 1986-1990 development plan.

Law amendments endorsed

The house also endorsed eight amendments to previous laws as they were presented by the house's legal committee. These temporary laws are: Number 29 of the 1974 law on the general budget; no. 19 of the 1975 law approving a loan agreement between Jordan and the International Development Fund to finance the second phase of the 1975 education project; no. 5 of the 1976 law on approving trade cooperation and exchange between Jordan and Syria; no. 8 of the 1983 law approving an agreement between Jordan and the Arab Fund for Socio and Economic Development to finance the fifth Arab telecommunications project; no. 11 of a 1983 law approving a loan agreement between Jordan and the Islamic Bank for financing part of the Zarqa water and sewerage project; no. 30 for 1983 law approving a loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development to raise the capacity of the King Talal Dam; no. 31 of 1983 law approving an agreement between Jordan and the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction to fund the Amman traffic network and Amman Municipality services.

The legal committee also approved article no. 23 of the 1975 temporary law on roads, which regulates the rights and duties of both the Ministry of Public Works and the owners of land in cases where the ministry plans to start projects, open roads or extend its services.

The main item under the approval law states that each land owner has the right to state his complaint to the Ministry of Public Works whereas the earlier law gave the ministry the right to carry out its services without hearing any complaints.

The legal committee also scrapped both temporary law no. 34 of 1977 on an amendment to the roads law and another similar amendment to the 1983 law on roads saying that both laws were incorporated into article no. 23 of the 1975 roads law.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy to Spain presents credentials

MADRID (J.T.) — Jordan's Ambassador to Spain, Mohammad Al Udwan has presented his credentials to King Juan Carlos. During the presentation ceremony King Juan and Dr. Udwan exchanged views on the latest developments in Arab-Spanish relations.

Senate to debate JMC law today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament will convene today to review a number of draft laws referred to it by the Lower House. Among matters to be discussed is a decision by the House's legal committee on the Jordan Medical Council Law. The committee has recommended that the House reject most amendments to the law which were endorsed by the Lower House. These amendments are connected with new examinations for medical specialists which would prevent specialists practising without the council's certificate. The committee has recommended that the initial examinations set for specialists remain in force.

IDB grants loans to new businesses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted 25 loans totalling JD 73,900 to local craftsmen. The bank said in a statement that the loans went to aluminium, ironworks, photography, dressmaking, upholstery, building, baking restaurant businesses and to maintenance workshops for cars. The various businesses are located in Amman, Salt, Zarqa, Karak and Irbid.

Court sentences Captagon user

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Awad Abdullah Aish to two months in prison and fined him JD 50 for possessing and using Captagon tablets. The military governor has endorsed the sentence.

JPMC announces January figures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) produced 497,000 tonnes of phosphates during January 1986. JPMC sales during the same period amounted to 490,000 tonnes, 410,000 tonnes of which were exported while 80,000 tonnes were supplied to the Jordan Fertilisers Industry Company in Aqaba.

Aqaba Municipality supports societies

AQABA (Petra) — Aqaba Municipality has donated JD 1,000 to the local women's union and the youth club and JD 250 to a local society that cares for handicapped children. A municipality statement said that the donation was made in a bid to enable local institutions to carry out social and youth activities.

Organisations to study fishing

AQABA (Petra) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) will conduct a joint study on purchasing fishing boats to be put at the disposal of the fishermen's society in Aqaba to enable the society to expand its activities. The two organisations will also conduct a second study on fish farming in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Public criticise TCC phone bill collection methods

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The recent disconnection of some 10,000 telephone lines by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has prompted harsh criticism from the public regarding the TCC's methods of collecting payments.

A number of subscribers interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed dissatisfaction over "unfair and large payments" which they said, were far from being "realistic or accurate." Others contended that they had to pay their subscription twice; the first payment to the Housing Bank which accepts telephone bill payments for the TCC and when they receive the next bill with the same payment they gave to the Housing Bank added to the payment due. One subscriber said that TCC regulations state that complaints are not to be dealt with before the payment is collected "and so by the time we file the complaint, it is too late to get our money back."

According to TCC Operations and Investment Department Director Abdul Rahman Al Hindieh, the TCC has only disconnected the lines of subscribers who did not pay their bills for 1984. Those who have not paid their 1985 subscription fees were not affected by the measure, Mr. Hindieh told the

Jordan Times.

He said the TCC has decided to allow payments to be spread over 12 months, instead of twice a year. Mr. Hindieh explained the new method reduces the amount of money due in each payment which would make it easier for subscribers to fulfil their subscription fees.

Referring to some complaints over repeated payments for subscriptions, Mr. Hindieh contended that the TCC does not compound bills as they are issued on a monthly basis without adding previous bills. This is done automatically by the computer, he explained.

Mr. Hindieh said that subscribers must pay their overdue bills in addition to a reconnection fee of JD 5 before the corporation will reconnect their lines.

A TCC source quoted by Al Dustour newspaper said payments due on disconnected lines amounted to JD 6 million.

Speaking about telephone fees, Mr. Hindieh said every subscriber is entitled to 1,000 units per annum as part of their subscription fee. Every unit is six minutes and any extra unit over 1,000 will be charged at a rate of 10 fils per unit, he explained.

Mr. Hindieh concluded that the disconnection of unpaid lines was inevitable as the TCC asked the public several times to meet their payments but for no avail.

British ships to visit Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Three British ships will visit Aqaba from Feb. 7 to 10. HMS Newcastle, HMS Jupiter and RFA Brambleleaf will arrive directly from Djibouti after participating in last month's multi-national rescue operation off Aden together with the Royal Yacht Britannia.

During the four-day visit, the commanding officers will pay a number of official calls in Aqaba and Amman and together with the ships' companies will have the opportunity to visit Petra and enjoy a few days relaxation in Aqaba itself. They sailed from Portsmouth last October.

By Captain P. Erskine, is one of the Royal Navy's type 42 guided missile destroyers which form the backbone of the fleet's anti-air warfare forces. She is also equipped for surface and submarine

Jordan Times

Tel: 666320
666265

Water from Deir Alla fit to drink, JVA says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is pumping more than 4,000 cubic metres of water a day from Deir Alla station in the central Jordan Valley to different regions of Amman and the water is clean, potable and in accordance with standards set by the World Health Organisation, according to a JVA spokesman who was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper in a report published Tuesday. The spokesman said that the JVA could increase this amount of water to 5,000 cubic metres a day if requested to do so.

In answer to a question about reports that turbid water was coming out of taps in people's homes, the spokesman said that teams of experts employed to check the water on a constant basis have reported that the water which is being pumped from Deir Alla to the capital is one hundred per cent pure and fit for drinking.

He went on to say that the Dabouq water tower, which has a capacity of 200,000 cubic metres, is functioning normally and supplying the Amman area with water that has been thoroughly tested. The water tower and the equipment installed for testing the water cost JD 9 million, the spokesman added.

He continued that low rainfall for this season will have a direct negative effect on underground water reserves.

Jordan denounces Israeli 'air piracy'

(Continued from page 1)
involvement at all," Defence Department spokesman Robert Sims told Reuters.

Sims denied a report by the Libyan news agency JANA that U.S. warships in the Mediterranean had used electronic surveillance to guide the Israelis to the Libyan plane.

JANA said U.S. navy units had helped the "Zionist pirates" with information on flight movements of the plane.

The Tripoli conference, the opening of which was attended by the Syrian delegation headed by Mr. Ahmad, issued a statement warning the U.S.

The 22 Arab movements taking part in the meeting agreed Tuesday to form a suicide strike force to hit at American interests "within the United States and throughout the world" in case of U.S. attacks on Libya or any other Arab Nation.

A three-day meeting of the "Allied Leadership of the Revolutionary Forces of the Arab Nation" meeting under the chairmanship of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi issued a communique warning of increased international violence.

The statement said the meeting "explored ways to intensify the struggle... in confronting Zionist and imperialist plots and conspiracies."

The meeting followed week-long U.S. navy exercises off the Libyan coast and Washington reports that the U.S. aircraft carriers Saratoga and the Coral Sea might return to the area.

The resolution said the U.S.-Libyan confrontation had proved

that "the flexing of muscles and aggressive threats and provocations do not terrorise nations and that the defeat of imperialism is not only possible but inevitable."

The meeting vowed to "mobilise Arab military and popular forces to... burn the ground under the feet of American imperialists and their allies... if they dared to attack the Jamahiriyah (Libya) or any other Arab Nation."

The "Allied Leadership," headed by Col. Qadhafi and set up last year, groups the PFLP, the PFLP-General Command, the Lebanese Communist and Socialist parties, the Iraqi National Democratic Front and other Arab groups.

The participants included Dr. Habash, PFLP-GC leader Ahmad Jibril, Nayef Hawatme, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Saeed Musa, leader of a dissident wing of

the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The American sanctions against Libya were imposed following attacks in Rome and Vienna attributed by the administration of President Ronald Reagan to the "Fateh Revolutionary Council" of Sabri Al Banna — alias Abu Nidal.

Abu Nidal was not seen at the Tripoli meeting, but his second-in-command Abu Nizar sat in the front row of the approximately 200 delegates.

Israel meanwhile conceded that it failed attempt to capture a Palestinian guerrilla leader.

"We did not achieve our aim," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told parliament.

"We hoped to catch a big fish but failed," a senior official told Reuters.

Israel meanwhile conceded that it failed to achieve its aim of the hijacking.

Kohl confirms swap

(Continued from page 1)

leak of the planned exchange through the right-wing West German tabloid Bild. Moscow normally treats such actions with the utmost secrecy, rarely acknowledging their conduct publicly.

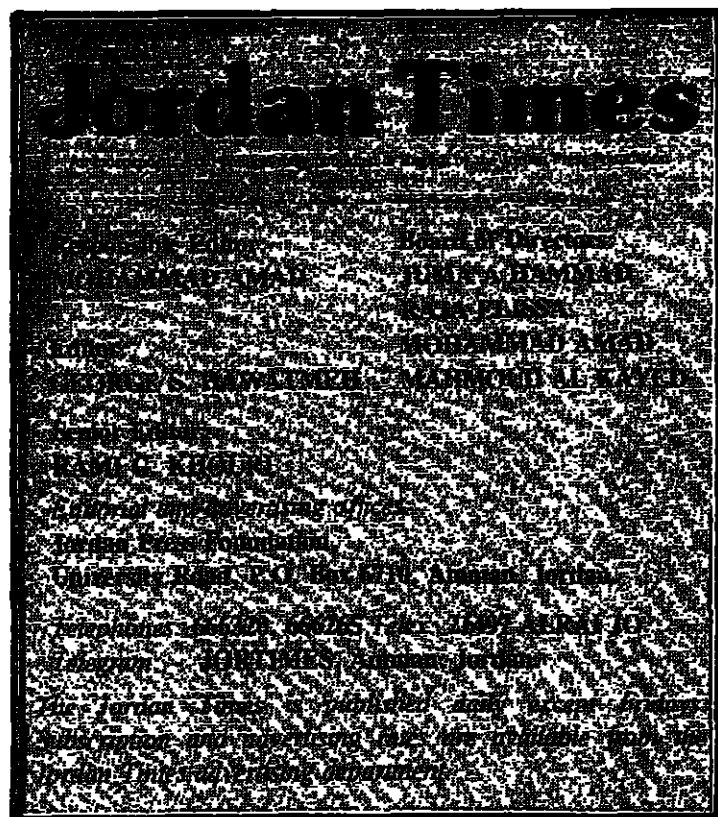
The iron-girded Glienicke Bridge, half West Berlin territory, and the other half East German, is sealed by a red-and-white barrier on this side and is normally open only to U.S., British and French military traffic.

The Western allies use it to reach their official military mis-

sions, set up in East Germany under post-World War II agreements with Moscow.

The eastern bank of the waterway is skirted by high, razor-sharp steel fences that form part of the 163.7-kilometre Berlin Wall, built by East Germany almost 25 years ago.

The West German sources said they could give no details about the size of the planned prisoner exchange but that the release of dissident human rights activist Shcharansky, 37, was part of the deal.



Pretoria's fake gesture

ALTHOUGH there might have been no element of surprise in the South African regime's proclamation that it is willing to "share" power with blacks, the timing of the declaration seems to have been carefully studied so as to attract the maximum world attention to the "gracious, goodwill" gesture of the white minority rulers. If anything, Pretoria's gesture towards the blacks is aimed at showing the international community that the whites are really serious about granting some form of power to the blacks — those unfortunate people who saw their land, their rights and freedom expropriated by invaders who could care little for justice and right as long as their colonial and financial ends were served.

What is being offered to the blacks of South Africa now? Membership in a council that has no power or say in the running of their affairs? "Relaxed" rules that allow them to move around in their own homeland? A promise that they would not be kicked out of white neighbourhoods at the first instance?

Mr. Botha of course can do better than that. He could tell them the new offer implies that whites will continue to decide what is good and what is bad for the sons of the black homeland, and ensure that the new proposal guarantees mute black acceptance of continued oppression and maintains their money-making machines oiled by black blood.

Mr. Botha could also tell them the new offer stems from an increasing concern in Pretoria that a situation beyond white control is in the offing if the widespread anti-apartheid protests remain unbridled. Precisely, it is only intended as a one-way bridge, which, once allowed to ensue the blacks, will only tighten. The South African leader should not forget to add that the new offer is the brainchild of the millionaire industrialists in South Africa who are alarmed over the prospect of continued unrest which threatens to cripple their money-making machines which use black human "horses" at cheap costs.

It is funny to hear Mr. Botha speak of his regime "outgrowing the outdated concept of apartheid." Is his concept of a statutory council including black representatives having no real power a "modern" idea? Perhaps he forgets that the world's memory is still fresh of the centuries-old colonial practice to prop up a team of obedient servants to act as the glue of a colony. During the days of the British empire the idea worked very well, but people have grown wiser now. It is obvious that the Pretoria regime has no short- or long-term plan ever to give an iota of power to the blacks. The most concrete sign of the whites' continued and unlimited greed for power, money and black subservience is the regime's total refusal to consider the one-man-one-vote system for the blacks. The stark reminder that the day of such a poll will be the last day in power for the minority whites in South Africa is the most foreboding thought for Messrs Botha and Company.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Lebanon's continued bloodshed

THE situation in Lebanon is now so complicated that it seems as though only a miracle can bring peace to that country. Whenever a solution is looming in the offing, evil forces inside and outside that country join ranks to undermine security by blowing up car bombs and pursuing sniper firing or by abducting citizens. All these bitter years of civil war in Lebanon have not been enough to bring back to the Lebanese any sense and a realisation that they are committing suicide and continuing a drive to destroy their country. The civil war seems to have given birth to a generation of evil forces that regard peace in Lebanon as their arch foe and are now implementing every scheme to destroy it. These evil forces have the same interests as those of the enemies of the Arab World who seek to maintain a divided Lebanon so that it would be easy to control or dominate it. The situation has deteriorated to a degree where you cannot decide which groups are really involved and against whom. We have hoped that the Damascus accord would finally bring peace to Lebanon, but it seems that since the warring groups are still in disagreement and have now resorted to arms again, that only a miracle can settle the civil war and bring security to Lebanon.

Al Dustour: Israel's deception

STATEMENTS issued by Israeli government leaders including Prime Minister Shimon Peres indicate that Israel is determined to impose its own concept of peace on the Arabs and that it wants to dictate its own terms and conditions. This simply means imposing capitulation on the Arabs whose lands and homes have been usurped and rights taken away from them by force. After his European tour, Peres returned to the same tone in his political speeches with regard to the Middle East issue. His statements have been more aggressive than ever before and they are quite contrary to the sweet tone he presented to the European leaders. We have had a long experience in dealings with Israel and its tactics and we realise that the Israelis want to impose their will and their terms on the Arabs and perpetuate their hold over their land. We have been warning the world nations against the tricks which Israel plays and continue to play and the plots it hatches here and there for the sake of deceiving the Europeans and the rest of the world. Since the moment he returned to Israel, Peres had been involved in making statements that reveal Israel's arrogance and aggressiveness and total refusal of the idea of establishing peace with the help of the international community.

Sawt Al Shaab: UNRWA's plight

THE recurrent deficit in the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the drop in the level of services offered to the refugees reflect the international community's loss of interest in the Palestine issue. This situation is being aggravated with the fresh Israeli onslaught on the Arab and Islamic institutions and holy places. Since Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967, UNRWA has been facing growing difficulties in raising sufficient funds because the donor nations have been pressured by the Zionist movement to refrain from extending any further assistance to the refugees. UNRWA faced even harder times during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon because the invasion brought about additional burdens to the agency. UNRWA has been trying to sympathise with the refugees and to offer them all possible help, but its work had been exposed to obstacles and more challenges. The absence of security and the lack of peace in the area makes things difficult for every one particularly the refugees who struggle to regain their dignity and their freedom. The international community should bear responsibility towards the refugees and should enable UNRWA to shoulder its heavy task.

Peace is the real target of the airport atrocities

By Nabeel Abraham

THE terrorist outrages at Rome and Vienna airports raise anew the problem of comprehending the so-called "cycle of violence and counter-violence" in the Middle East. It is increasingly clear that the Palestinian gunmen were working for the PLO renegade and outlaw, Abu Nidal. To the average European and American the deliberate and wanton killing and maiming of innocent people defies comprehension, and is repugnant in the extreme. And rightly so. But unless we are to conclude that the Palestinians have all gone mad, we must look beneath the surface events to their inner logic, for even madness, if it is that, has a logic of its own.

Left in the hands of American pundits the airport atrocities will go down as part of the growing spectre of "international terrorism," said to be menacing our world. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has argued that international terrorism is part of a Soviet-inspired design to undermine Western democracies and their allies around the world and has called on the U.S. to take the offensive in responding to it. The anti-terrorist line acquired a shriller tone following the Achille Lauro incident, when several American commentators adopted the opinion, in a remarkable leap of logic, that the threat of international terrorism had now replaced the threat of nuclear war as the greatest danger confronting humanity.

Self-serving hyperbole aside, the twin airport attacks in December, like the hijacking of the Egyptian plane to Malta the previous month, are part of a wider, long-term campaign to delegitimise the mainstream PLO and thwart any remaining hopes of a negotiated settlement between Israel and America's Arab allies. That the recent airport incidents

conform to this pattern can be discerned from the ambiguous nature of the gunmen's objectives and organisational affiliation on the one hand, and Israel's persistence in linking Arafat and the PLO to the crime on the other. Even as Italian, Austrian and Israeli police authorities were publicly announcing they were certain Abu Nidal was behind the airport attacks, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was telling a U.S. television audience, "We are in a war with terrorism, all the groups of terrorism, including maybe mainly the Arafat group," even though he knows perfectly well that the PLO had long ago sentenced Abu Nidal to death, and the latter has publicly boasted about the murder of at least seven of the organisation's top representatives in various European and Arab capitals.

The hardliners are in tacit agreement that the PLO under Mr. Arafat's leadership must be delegitimised, if not demolished entirely.

The average European and American does not make a distinction between the mainstream PLO and other Palestinian, or for that matter Arab and Muslim, factions. His understanding is not always helped by the news media's reports and commentaries portraying acts of terrorism; a bevy of behind-the-scenes Israeli experts, scholars and unnamed officials help "frame" events for Western journalists and commentators. The upshot is a natural inclination on the Westerner's part to associate terrorist acts committed by Palestinians and Middle Easterners in general with Arafat and

the PLO, further delegitimising the beleaguered organisation in the eyes of the world. Paradoxical as it may seem, Mr. Arafat and the PLO were the intended targets of the attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

The ruling Labour-Likud alliance, of course, is all too happy to play along with Abu Nidal and his Arab hosts and pounce politically, and perhaps eventually militarily, on Yasser Arafat's PLO. That much was conveyed to the *New York Times* via its Jerusalem bureau chief, Thomas Friedman, who has come to serve as the principal unofficial conduit for Israeli government opinion in the U.S. On 30 December he wrote:

Although Israeli sources are increasingly convinced that Abu Nidal is behind the attacks, the Israeli Government is trying to place blame for any terrorist incidents involving Palestinians on Mr. Arafat. This is part of an effort to convince the United States that he should not be a partner in any Middle East peace negotiations.

It does not take much insight to see that the "winner" in this deadly Middle Eastern shadow war is Israel's intransigent leadership. It is not only handed a suitable pretext to continue denying the legitimate demands of the Palestinians in the court of world opinion, but more importantly it can continue to tighten its grip on the occupied territories while preparing the Israeli public to accept greater future sacrifices on behalf of this and other expansionist policies. One can imagine the dismay among Israel's leaders should Abu Nidal disappear from the scene.

But if Israel stands to gain so much from Palestinian acts of terrorism what is in it for Abu Nidal and his Libyan, Syrian, and, in the past, Iraqi hosts? Are they totally

oblivious to the collateral damage done to the Palestinian cause and to the Arab image in general by Abu Nidal's wanton and indiscriminate attacks on civilians in airports, airplanes, synagogues, sidewalk cafes, schools, and crowded streets? Apparently so, for in their perverse minds striking a blow at Arafat overrides all other considerations, even if it means squandering what little international goodwill the Palestinians have left. To Abu Nidal, Colonel Qadhafi and other like-minded Arab extremists, the war against the Zionist enemy requires the elimination of all those like Arafat who seek to negotiate with Israel. Their uncompromising attitude rules out negotiations with the enemy on principle. Since the ends justify the means, all methods to stop Arafat and thwart Arab-Israeli negotiations are acceptable in including use of violence against innocent civilians. In their hardline attitude, the Arab extremists are no different than Israeli extremists and other fanatics around the world, all of whom will stop at nothing to achieve their aims.

To Abu Nidal's Syrian allies the campaign to delegitimise the PLO is part of a calculated, some would say cynical, move to bolster the regime's staying power vis-à-vis its Israeli adversary in the next war that is surely coming. Negotiations with Israel are not rejected on principle, but out of strategic and tactical considerations. When the Arabs (led by Syria) are "strong enough," their reasoning goes, negotiations can begin, not before. Therefore, if Arafat cannot be controlled, he must be stopped. As the Syrian regime has so aptly demonstrated in Lebanon, manipulation of others to do its bidding is its strongest suit.

In the present Middle East pol-

itical configuration Arafat finds himself confronted by an array of Arab and Israeli hardliners bent on preventing him from offering any more political concessions to the U.S. and its Arab allies to win himself a place at the elusive Arab-Israeli negotiating table. The hardliners are in tacit agreement that the PLO under Mr. Arafat's leadership must be delegitimised, if not demolished entirely.

It is a wonder that the Palestinians have not already gone mad with rage.

If Arafat today finds himself caught between the proverbial hammer and anvil, he has himself partly to blame. Under his long tenure as head of Fatah, the PLO's largest constituent organisation, several secret underground groups were spawned that set the pattern for others such as Abu Nidal to emulate. The most noteworthy was the short-lived but highly active Black September organisation, whose involvement in the 1972 Munich affair continues to haunt the PLO today. More recently, the Achille Lauro fiasco, attributed to Mr. Arafat's ally Abu Abbas, probably gave Abu Nidal some food for thought. Arafat's ensuing public declaration in Cairo banning all operations outside Israeli-occupied territory could only have served as a standing invitation to his adversaries to put the PLO leader's word to the test. Viewed in this context, the ambiguity over the identity and objectives of the Palestinian gunmen who hijacked the Egyptian airliner and committed the twin airport attacks in Rome and Vienna acquires special meaning.

If in response to the recent up-

urge in Middle East-related terrorist attacks many people around the world begin to conclude that the Palestinians have finally gone mad, one can understand their point of view. One can also sympathise with the Palestinian people. After more than 35 years of state-sponsored terror directed against them by Israel, Syria, and the Lebanese state and its numerous warlords, it is a wonder that the Palestinians have not already gone mad with rage. Prior to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon and its destruction there of the PLO "infrastructure," even the most wretched Palestinian held out a sense of hope. In the aftermath of the PLO's withdrawal from Lebanon, followed by the anticipated camp massacres and the break-up of the PLO into warring factions, that hope quickly faded into a cruel memory. Now that Arafat's strategy of giving political concessions to an unresponsive Reagan administration seems to have exhausted what little patience the Palestinians have left, no one, least of all the traditional Palestinian leadership of all political stripes, has anything to offer the increasingly desperate Palestinian population. Is it any wonder then that the young men, mostly from the refugee camps of Lebanon, who have known only oppression and torment all their lives, are increasingly volunteering for Abu Nidal's suicide missions in the mistaken belief that striking out at someone, even if it means certain death, is better than doing nothing at all? If this is madness on their part, then what shall one say about those sitting in Damascus, Tel Aviv and Washington who deliberately block all attempts to relieve the Palestinians of their torment, and cynically exploit their rage for their own political ends? — Middle East International, London.

Foes and former allies pressure Gemayel to quit

By Mona Ziadé
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — President Amin Gemayel is fighting to stay in power against a new Syrian-backed alliance of his long-time Muslim foes and former Christian allies who are seeking to topple him.

The outcome of the power struggle will determine whether Lebanon, ravaged by 11 years of civil war, will be shaken by yet another convulsion.

Syria, until recently Gemayel's main supporter, has approved efforts to oust him midway through his six-year term because he scuttled a peace pact signed Dec. 28 in Damascus by three of his militia rivals.

Pro-Syrian factions ring the Christian heartland, Gemayel's power base, on three sides and are threatening to unseat him by force if he does not resign.

But the 44-year-old president, nicknamed "Al Anid" as a boy by his family — Arabic for "the stubborn one" — appears determined to cling to power until his term expires in September 1988.

Politically, Gemayel is completely isolated after crushing his main Christian rival, Elie Hobeika, in bloody fighting Jan. 15. Police said 350 people, mainly fighters of Hobeika's Christian forces militia, died in the battle, which ended with Hobeika surrendering and briefly fleeing the country.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, parliament speaker Hussein Hussein and other Muslim members of Gemayel's administration refuse to meet with him.

His government, weakened by sectarian rivalries for the last two years, now is paralysed, and Gemayel has no authority outside his Christian power base.

This has shrunk to a wedge north of Beirut after Muslim and leftist forces drove Christians from the Chouf mountains and the coastal plain south of the capital.

Militarily, Gemayel still has muscle. The army's four strongest brigades remain loyal to him. The 10,000 soldiers are backed by 50 U.S.-supplied M-48 battle tanks and 155-mm heavy artillery.

Asked what the military would do if Syrian-backed forces tried to depose Gemayel, a senior army officer said, "the military establishment has no choice but to defend the legitimate authority, including the presidency."

The question remains how far Syria is prepared to go.

Syria maintains about 25,000 troops in north and east Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peace-keeping mandate. It has moved about 200 Soviet-built T-54 tanks and 1,100 crack troops to Gemayel's Meimoun mountain stronghold northeast of Beirut, apparently to underline its growing impatience with him.

Fighting has spluttered in the mountains since Jan. 15. But so far the Syrian-backed forces, along with the Druze and Shi'ite Muslim militias with 12,000 fighters and 200 tanks, have made no serious thrust.

Akram Shehadeh, a leading member of the Druze Progressive Socialist Party's politburo, said "we hope it won't come to a military showdown."

"But as long as Gemayel heads the state and controls the military establishment, the possibility of a political solution is extremely remote... we must prepare for all possibilities, including war."

The 29-year-old Hobeika's role as the sole Christian signatory projected him as the main voice of Lebanon's Christians.

But Gemayel objected to political reforms that would have given Muslims equal power with the traditionally dominant Christians.

Jumblatt has said the only solution to Lebanon's strife is to overthrow "the shah of Baabda."

Gemayel also faces problems within the Christian camp. Samir Geagea, a pro-Israeli Lebanese Forces commander who split with Hobeika to lead the Jan. 15 offensive against him alongside Gemayel's troops, had rebelled against Gemayel only last March because of the president's pro-Syrian policies.

A month ago peace seemed within Lebanon's grasp. But Gemayel vetoed the Damascus-brokered peace pact signed by Hobeika, Druze chieftain Walid Junblatt and Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri.

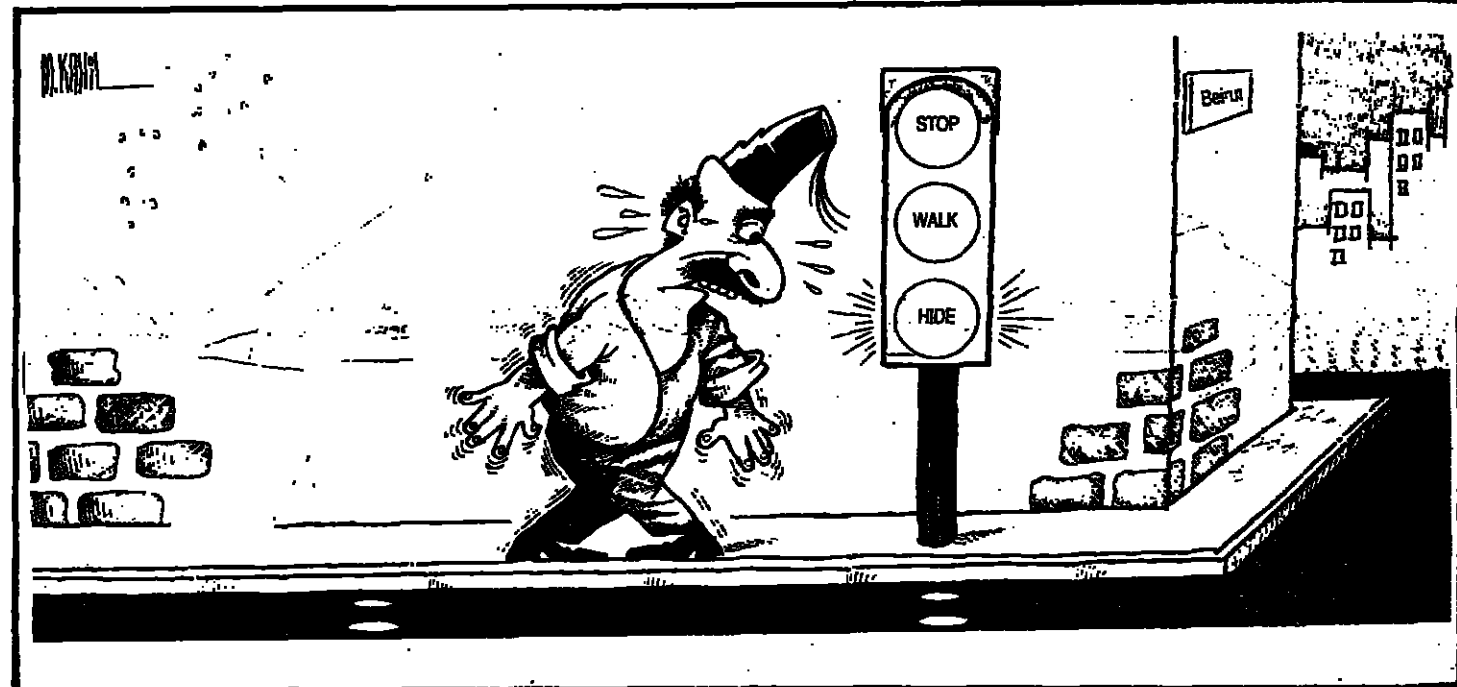
Political analysts believe the uneasy Gemayel-Geagea alliance will hold while the Christian heartland is threatened. But the two men may yet be headed for a showdown, with Gemayel in the weaker position.

Gemayel, who came to power in 1982 during the Israeli invasion, has had a turbulent term. He took office after his younger brother, president-elect Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated by a bomb at his Phalange Party headquarters in September 1982.

The Christians massacred hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut's Sabra and Chatila refugee camps.

Leftist and Muslim forces moved against Gemayel after he signed a U.S.-brokered treaty with Israel in May 1983. Druze warriors drove the Christians out of the Chouf, and Muslim forces dislodged the army from west Beirut six months later.

Gemayel headed off a final showdown by abrogating the treaty with Israel and turned to Syria. Now, after torpedoing the Syrian-mediated peace accord, he's once again under the gun.



Ferdinand E. Marcos: Dictator or democrat?

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — For 20 years, President Ferdinand E. Marcos has been ruling the steadily pro-American Philippines with an uneven mixture of authoritarianism and democracy.

A brilliant lawyer and his country's most successful politician, Marcos has outwitted, outmaneuvered or outlasted nearly every strong opponent.

Now, at 68, he is challenged by a 53-year-old, politically inexperienced widow who accuses him of ruining the economy, abusing his people and killing her husband. He also faces new evidence against his war record and unaccounted pressure from his American allies.

On Feb. 7, 27 million Filipinos will decide whether they want to be governed for another six years by Marcos or by Corason Aquino, widow of former Sen. Benigno Aquino.

The election is the latest challenge of Marcos' public career, which began with his conviction for a murder committed when he was 18 and is now mired in the aftermath of the Aquino assassination.

Many years ago, Marcos' conviction in the death of his father's political rival was overturned by the supreme court, where he argued his own case after achieving the highest score on the national lawyers exam, taken while he was facing the murder charges.

Five decades later, Marcos' closest military confidante and other soldiers were acquitted in the Aquino killing.

The late Carlos P. Romulo, former foreign minister, called Marcos the "quintessential Filipino."

American biographer Hartzell Spence, in a 1965 book that is now copyrighted by Marcos, describes the Filipino leader as a man who has risen above the supposed weaknesses of his people.

"In a nation of gamblers and pleasure-seekers, Marcos makes no wagers and is happiest when

reading a book in his own library. He neither smokes nor drinks. In a culture addicted to graft and political corruption, he has a reputation as an honest man, both personally and politically. Among people who are essentially lazy, Marcos is a dynamo."

Recent Marcos watchers are less charitable and see him as a man considerably weakened physically and politically since the Aquino assassination.

Mrs. Aquino called him an "inveterate liar" and her supporters accuse him of past and future cheating.

Some opponents openly com-

pare Marcos to Satan and, under the relative freedom of speech that has existed in Manila in recent years, ridicule him publicly with sometimes cruel jokes about his health and his family.

Marcos was born Sept. 11, 1917 in the northern Luzon town of Sarat. The bed on which he was born is a minor tourist attraction in the town which is part of the Ilocos region, known for fierce, sometimes violent political loyalties.

The president has long claimed to have led a guerrilla unit against the Japanese in World War II and earned 27 Philippine and U.S.

medals. But recently published classified U.S. documents say the unit did not exist, and challenges have been raised to many of Marcos' medals.

Marcos became the youngest representative in the Philippines' U.S.-style congress in 1949, and was re-elected in 1953.

In 1954, as one of the country's most eligible bachelors, he met Imelda Romualdez, a beauty queen from a prominent central Philippines family who was working as a clerk at the central bank.

Marcos was reelected to congress in 1957 and to the senate in 1959.

Tunisia: Crisis or farce?

By Francis Gahies

For the past several weeks, Tunisian politics have provided observers, not to mention seven million Tunisians, with a heady mixture of farce and pathos. Had President Habib Bourguiba, the country's 83-year-old leader, last week divorced his once powerful first lady, Wassila, as he had previously threatened to do, farce would surely have prevailed in North Africa's smallest country.

The latest crisis started at the end of December when, addressing the ruling committee of the Socialist Destourian party, the president denounced Tunisia's growing corruption. With the new year, a number of people were arrested and the capital fell prey to the most extravagant rumours, though many of those arrested were later released for lack of evidence.

On 7 January the president dismissed his son, Habib Bourguiba Jr., from his post as special adviser, implicitly acknowledging the accusations of corruption long levied against him. His departure has worried many Tunisians, for whom the president's son provided political "cover." The prime minister, Mohammed MZali, has strongly backed the president but his followers are not too happy about the attacks on Wassila.

Despite the open hostility between the first lady and the prime minister, the fact that lately she was thrown out of the presidential palace is proving deeply worrying.

Wassila and her family, the Ben Amar, hold considerable power of patronage. Were she to be tried or put under house arrest, many Tunisians beholden to the Ben Amar would lose their political "cover."

Madame Bourguiba entered a private clinic three days ago, leaving the country to speculate whether she is really ill or merely seeking a discreet way of withdrawing from the scene for a while. All is mystery and rumour — the bush telephone, better known in these parts as *le telephone Arabe*, being the principal means of communicating news.

Meanwhile the president's recently appointed cabinet director, Manouche Skhiri, the former governor of the president's home town of Monastir, has become very powerful, as has his niece, Saïda Sassi, who has replaced Wassila as the lady with the closest access to the president. Needless to say the two women heartily detest each other. Bourguiba Jr.'s departure has weakened the minister in charge of national security, General Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, but even those close to the prime minister seem to be unhappy about recent events. Manouche

Skhiri is not one of MZali's traditional allies, and while they support the president's attack on corruption, they know only too well that this phenomenon is by no means limited to Habib Bourguiba Jr. and the Ben Amar family. The accusations could rebound on the whole establishment.

The crisis comes against a gloomy background. Habib Achour, the former leader of the trades unions' alliance, the UGTT, who has been under house arrest since last autumn, was sent to prison on 31 December. The UGTT ruling body promptly reelected him as secretary-general, thus depriving the prime minister of his earlier victory. Meanwhile austerity prevails in the 1986 budget, and prices have risen by 25 per cent over the past two years while salaries have been frozen. The risks of confrontation between the U.S. and Libya adds tension on the southern border while relations with Algeria are also tense. Indeed Algeria is unhappy at the secret dialogue the Tunisians have been having with the U.S. with a view to granting military facilities to the U.S. navy. Last but not least, the army remains very unhappy in the wake of the Israeli bombing of the PLO headquarters last October — Middle East International, London.

مكتبة الأمل

American Muslim calligrapher to tour Mideast

By Joanne L. Nix

WASHINGTON — Calligrapher Mohammed Zakariya is a product of both East and West — not by birth, but by choice. The American Muslim artist has developed art forms from the Arab world in an American setting, thus creating both a successful career and a fulfilling way of life.

An American of Anglo-Saxon and German descent, he converted to Islam more than 20 years ago after discovering during several visits to Morocco a strong philosophical attraction to the religion and a fascination for the Arabic language.

The versatile artist is also a master woodworker, engraver, and machinist. He also designs and constructs functioning examples of an antique-style scientific and navigational instruments.

Zakariya has already exhibited widely in the United States and abroad. Recently, he was invited by the United States Information Agency to deliver a series of workshop/lectures, and to exhibit his work in the Arab World. At the beginning of April he will begin a month-long tour which will include Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

How did an American teenager raised in Los Angeles, who rep-

eated his second year of high school before dropping out, become a practicing Sunni Muslim, widely exhibited calligrapher, and creator of antique scientific instrument replicas?

Zakariya explains that after he quit school he worked as a machinist. But the restless 19-year-old felt the need to travel and seek adventure. "I saved up enough money to take a holiday to Morocco because it sounded like an exotic and interesting place to go," he explained in an interview with USA. "I hopped aboard a Yugoslavian freighter that went to New York and then on to the Middle East."

His first trip in 1961 lasted more than a month. "When I was over there," he recalled, "I observed Islamic daily life and when I got back to the States, I wanted to find out more. So I bought a copy of the Koran. I got an English translation and I couldn't get anything out of it. So I figured I better learn some Arabic and read the original language."

Zakariya taught himself Arabic at the time. As he did his assigned work he would glance at his list of words for the day until he mastered simple words and phrases. "It took about four or five years before I could speak the language," he said. "But this was classical Arabic. I never learned the

dialects. I still don't know any. I've tried to learn them but I find they confuse the written language and I wanted to learn basic Arabic."

After a while he decided to change his line of work. "In my family there has always been a strong inclination for private enterprise. But I found myself still working in a machine shop," he recalled. "I began to be very unsatisfied with time clocks and weekly paychecks so I tried to find a way to use my ability with machines to create my own business."

"In 1963 I made a very fancy sundial and sold it. That began my business of instrument-making," he said. "At the same time, studying Arabic, I became aware that there was a calligraphic tradition. It was very attractive and I figured it would be wonderful to buy some."

He went on to explain that when he tried to find some Arabic calligraphy in Los Angeles, there was none. Samples he did happen upon cost hundreds and thousands of dollars. So he decided to make some himself.

"I didn't know what I was getting into at that time," he recalled. "I thought, 'well you sit down and do it. It's no big deal.' But the more I did it, the harder it became. And the more I attempted it the more I got into it. I ended up on

my next trip to Morocco in 1964 meeting my first teacher, an Egyptian visiting Tangier who eventually moved there with his family."

His teacher, A.S. Ali Nour, showed him how to cut pens the right way and hold them. Together they poured through ancient books on calligraphy to figure out processes no longer in use.

After his teacher went to England, Zakariya followed and studied there with him for a year. The young student also visited the British Museum where he could actually handle the old manuscripts. "In those days you could put your inkwell there and copy out of these thousand-year old books," he remembered fondly, before stringent security measures were implemented. "Now you can't come anywhere near them. You can't even bring a pencil into the room."

When asked why he converted to Islam, Zakariya replies, "Islam just happened for me. When I started to study Arabic, I realized how nice a language it was." He explained that once the Koran in Arabic became more accessible to him, he began to feel a desire to become more a part of it.

"In 1962 I went to our local mosque in Los Angeles, which at that time was a small building in east Los Angeles, and converted,"

he said.

As he prepares for his trip to the Arab World, Zakariya says he is looking forward to speaking with other people: artists, students and citizens from all walks of life. He revealed that during past visits he was surprised to discover that many people in the Arab World don't realize that there is a large American Muslim population. "What's more, there is an interest in calligraphy in the United States, and Islamic art in general is becoming more popular," he said.

Zakariya works out of a garage-workshop in his house, filling private and museum commissions. His calligraphy is highly decorated. Works sell for from \$300 to \$3,000. He also produces less costly commercial items such as stationery, which doesn't require specially treated paper. He writes with hand-carved bamboo pens he makes himself. He also mixes his own ink and sometimes uses another variety manufactured by a Turkish friend. His specially treated paper is colored or marbled and aged then hand polished with rocks. Sometimes another friend helps him process the paper.

The artist has taught calligraphy at the Middle East Institute in Washington and has exhibited in Paris, London, Washington, Los

Angeles and Qatar. Recent works include an astrolabe and celestial globe for a Saudi Arabian science museum; a sundial for the National Museum in Doha; an astrolabe for the International Airport at Jeddah; a standard-time sundial for the Time Museum in Rockford, Illinois, in the United States; and a cross staff for the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

His wood turning — shaping wood into various forms on a lathe — was exhibited at the American Craft Museum in New York in 1983 and has been featured in "Fine Woodworking Magazine" and in the "Fine Woodworking Biennial Design Book" for 1977 and 1979. He has also been profiled in articles published by "The Washington Times," "Virginia Country Magazine," and numerous magazines and newspapers published in the Middle East.

Zakariya continues to study calligraphy through the mail with Hasan Celebi in Istanbul. Despite countless hours of study, he feels he still has much to learn. When asked if one day he will be part of the chain of human transmission which is keeping this historic art form alive, Zakariya replies, "that is out of my hands. For now, I'm still a student." — U.S. Information Agency.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Alva Myrdal dies at 84

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Alva Myrdal, a tireless advocate of world disarmament who criticized superpowers for failing to end the arms race, died Saturday. She was 84.

In recognition of her efforts to promote disarmament, Mrs. Myrdal was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with Mexican diplomat Alfonso Garcia Robles in 1982.

She was the wife of Gunnar Myrdal, who shared the Nobel Memorial Prize in economic science in 1974. Mrs. Myrdal had been bedridden for the last two years. She died at a suburban hospital, and a cause of death was not immediately available.

Although disarmament remained an elusive goal, recognition was showered on Mrs. Myrdal in her lifetime. She held a total of four peace awards, including the first Albert Einstein Peace Prize,

along with nine honorary doctorates, five of them at U.S. universities.

Even after resigning at age 71 from her posts as Sweden's minister of disarmament and chief disarmament negotiator, Mrs. Myrdal continued her struggle — researching, lecturing and writing on peace and disarmament.

"I have never, never allowed myself to give up," she said after receiving the Einstein Prize in 1980, at a time when she had cause for frustration at the absence of progress towards disarmament.

She never lost the conviction and enthusiasm that attracted international attention from the moment in 1961 when she made a plea for the implementation of a nuclear test ban treaty in her first speech as Sweden's delegate to the United Nations disarmament conference in Geneva.

But as the years went by, Mrs.

Myrdal became increasingly critical of the United States and Soviet Union for what she saw as their unwillingness to work seriously and sincerely for disarmament. "The actions of those who lead the superpowers are governed by a deep lack of reason and common sense," she said after winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

After hearing of Mrs. Myrdal's death, Prime Minister Olof Palme said in a statement, "we will remember Mrs. Myrdal for light and happiness in her conviction and for the strength and breadth of her deeds."

"She dedicated the last decades of her life primarily to fighting for peace," Palme said. "With her unprecedented stamina and fighting spirit, she offered hope and comfort to those who felt despair over the madness of the arms race."

Palme visited her less than two hours before her death, the new-

spaper Aftonbladet reported Sunday, saying her husband had been by her side in the final hours of her life.

Born Alvas Reimer in Uppsala, Sweden, on January 31, 1902, she grew up in a middle-class and socially conscious home in Eskilstuna in south-central Sweden. Her father, a building contractor, once said his biggest regret was that he, as an employer, could not join a labour union.

In 1924, Miss Reimer married Gunnar Myrdal, then a young economist, shortly after she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Stockholm University after just two years of study.

Half a century later, both husband and wife would become Nobel laureates.

Mrs. Myrdal studied in the United States and Switzerland before obtaining her master of arts degree from the University of Uppsala, north of Stockholm, in 1934.

An expert on population matters, women's issues and child care, she published her first book, "Crisis in the Population Question," in 1934. It was co-authored by her husband.

During a 20-year teaching career, Mrs. Myrdal was an advocate of feminist causes long before they became fashionable. She was vice chairwoman of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women from 1938 to 1947, and chaired the federation's Swedish chapter for seven years.

Mrs. Myrdal's international career began in 1949 when she was appointed head of the U.N. Department of Social Affairs. In 1959, she became director of the department of social studies of UNESCO, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The turning point in her life came in 1955, when she went to

India as Sweden's woman ambassador ever. During her four years in New Delhi, Mrs. Myrdal developed a close friendship with the late Jawaharlal Nehru, then India's prime minister and grandfather of current Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

That turned her from sociology to the cause of world peace. When Mrs. Myrdal returned home, she became a member of parliament for the ruling Social Democratic Party in 1962 and head of the Swedish delegation to the U.N. disarmament conference in Geneva.

Appointed minister in charge of disarmament in 1966, Mrs. Myrdal became Sweden's third woman cabinet minister. She resigned in 1973, her hopes of achieving world disarmament unfulfilled, but never contemplating surrender in the face of continuing setbacks.

Moscow's new boss launches campaign reforms at Soviet capital

By Charles Bremner
Reuters

MOSCOW — If Moscow's new city boss has his way, the inhabitants of this superpower capital can look forward to a future of better housing, less shoddy shops and adequate transport.

Boris Yeltsin, a tough Siberian who took over the city's Communist Party leadership last month, has declared war on the ills that he says have run rampant in Moscow under an administration that had lost touch with the people.

Yeltsin, 55, gave vent to his anger at Moscow's state of affairs in a scathing and strikingly frank speech at last weekend's conference of the city party organization that effectively completed a purge of "city hall" officials.

Sitting in the audience during Yeltsin's indictment of incompetence and corruption in the capital was his predecessor for 18

years, and one-time associate of the late Leonid Brezhnev, Viktor Grishin.

Grishin, who is expected soon to lose his post in the Kremlin's ruling politburo, heard Yeltsin and other officials denounce among other things housing fraud, bad transport, rude shop assistants and graft in city hospitals.

"Sooner or later this had to be heard," Yeltsin said.

According to the new first secretary, Moscow's "flourishing bureaucracy" had become a by-word throughout the country. City officials thought they lived in a "zone free from criticism," he said.

They freely falsified statistics to give show of efficiency and were trying to evade the orders of the new Kremlin leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev to mend their ways.

Last year twice as many Muscovites had complained to the party's national central committee about the performance of the city

authorities as in 1982, Yeltsin said.

In other speeches, a school director lamented the state of educational establishments, saying for example blackboards dated from the stone age, and the Minister of Health said hospitals were dirty and run by rude and often corrupt staff.

The effort to clean up Moscow fits in with Gorbachev's drive to transform the economy and make the party apparatus that runs the country more responsive to the people.

In a gesture to symbolise the Kremlin's intentions in the capital, President Andrei Gromyko this month spent a week dropping in on shops and other places to hear complaints from the public over bad service and shortages.

Heavy resources have been invested to re-model the city that began as a settlement on the banks of the Moscow river in the 13th century.

their stamp, beginning with Vladimir Lenin who restored it as capital in 1918 after a two-century interlude when the Baltic city of St. Petersburg, now Leningrad, served as the seat of government.

Josef Stalin bequeathed massive monuments and vast thoroughfares built after the destruction of old quarters and many fine churches.

In the 1950s Nikita Khrushchev launched the big housing programme that gathered momentum under Brezhnev and continues at hectic pace along with increasing efforts to preserve historic zones of the capital.

Some 120,000 new apartments are being built each year. Over 80 per cent of city's 8.5 million population has been moved from crowded old communal apartments since 1945, and rehoused.

Though poor services and shortages make for a more arduous life than that enjoyed in most Western capitals, Moscow is a sought-after place of residence for

Soviets who require a special permit to live here.

Despite police efforts to expel citizens who do not have the much-prized permits, the city's population has grown by half a million since 1979.

Yeltsin warned in his speech of the dangers of Moscow becoming ungovernable if the population was not held in check.

A scandal over housing last autumn provided the first signs that the writing was on the wall for the administration of Grishin and the city mayor Vladimir Pronyslov.

Pronyslov was replaced earlier this month by Valery Saikin, the manager of the ZIL auto works, one of the city's biggest and most successful factories. The council, or Soviet chaired by the mayor, comes under the party committee which has broad powers to supervise all areas of the city's activities including the industries which operate here.

Official newspapers revealed what many Muscovites had long

guessed — that many new apartments existed only on paper after being declared completed by a construction administration anxious to fulfill its targets.

After inspection a total of 560,000 square metres of new flats were written off the city's books at the end of last year as well as a "significant number" of public amenities.

Yeltsin said that a total of 86 managers of enterprises and organisations had been expelled from the party in recent months and many of them had been prosecuted.

The party boss, who holds a powerful post as a national Communist Party secretary, said administrators, from district levels upwards, were under orders to transform their operations.

Reform through better personnel rather than significant changes to the centrally-controlled system is the heart of Gorbachev's own formula for modernising the country.

Shuttle blast looks like big setback

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The explosion of space shuttle Challenger, which killed seven astronauts last Tuesday, has disrupted plans for an exceptional year of U.S. scientific exploration using the space plane, scientists say.

They say projects to study Halley's comet, send probes to Jupiter and the sun and deploy a huge telescope to see to the very edge of the universe are in disarray and that U.S. efforts could lag badly as the Soviet Union and other countries make impressive strides in space research.

Shuttle flights have been suspended as a NASA space-agency inquiry investigates the cause of the mid-air blast.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has no official estimate on when flights will resume but some space scientists expect a long gap.

Marcia Smith, executive director of President Reagan's National Commission on Space, told Reuters two years was a reasonable guess. That prospect dismayed top U.S. scientists.

"We have to get on with it. NASA will exercise extreme caution to determine if the shuttle is safe but it will never be completely safe," Arthur Davidson, head of astrophysics at Johns Hopkins University, told Reuters. Hopkins is deeply involved in planned shuttle astronomy experiments.

Scientists say major projects likely to be held up include:

Halley's comet watch and astro ultra-violet laboratory. An observatory of ultra-violet instruments was due for shuttle launch on March 6 together with special cameras to observe Halley's comet, the mysterious body of ice and glowing gases that passes earth once every 76 years. The satellite laboratory would have stayed aloft for use by astronomers.

U.S. scientists strongly suspect the launch will be cancelled, losing the brief chance to study the comet. NASA had already angered U.S. scientists for failing to send a probe through the comet, as the Soviet Union, Japan, and the European Space Agency are doing.

Galileo Jupiter probe and Ulysses deep space explorer. Galileo and Ulysses were to have gone aloft in May in the first twin launch, using the shuttles Challenger and Atlantis. The spacecraft were to have been deployed in orbit to blast toward Jupiter using their own rockets.

Galileo's mission is to orbit Jupiter in 1988 and send a probe into the planet's atmosphere. Ulysses, a European Space Agency craft, is intended to loop around Jupiter into unexplored deep space beyond the sun.

If they cannot be launched in May, the next opportunity will not come for 13 months because of Jupiter's position.

But Thomas Gold, a Cornell

University space scientist, doubts the shuttle will ever be used to launch those craft, which were to be filled with highly explosive rocket fuel and carried in shuttle cargo bays. After the Challenger disaster that would seem much too dangerous, he said.

Costly unmanned rockets to launch them might not be available for several years.

Space telescope. Deemed NASA's "crown jewel" by Davidson, this huge device was described by NASA scientist Alexander Dessler as "the most influential instrument ever put into space — an advance rivaling Galileo's first use of the telescope for astronomy nearly 400 years ago."

NASA says the telescope could let astronomers see images of stars 10 to 20 billion light years distant. Thousands of astronomers had been eagerly awaiting its scheduled October launch, hoping to use it for studies on the origin of the universe and of stars.

NASA officials had been counting on these fully-funded projects to keep the United States in the forefront of scientific exploration.

The recently enacted Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Bill, calling for a balanced federal budget by 1991, has made cuts in future space spending inevitable.

But with shuttle projects in limbo, there is a greater chance the United States will be outdone in space science by the Soviet Union.

Modern sculpture in ancient Greek art

By Katerina Syrimi
Reuters

ATHENS — There is something strangely familiar about figures on show in Athens' newest museum, although they were sculpted thousands of years ago.

They form part of a display of art from the Cyclades islands, home of a Greek civilisation that flourished between 3000 and 2000 B.C.

The white marble statues, carved with the simplicity and austerity of form characteristic of much modern sculpture, remind one of the work of such 20th-century artists as Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso and Amedeo Modigliani.

For Dolly Goulondris, Greek patron of the arts and founder of the "Museum of Cycladic and Ancient Greek Art," one of the period's main attractions is its similarity to modern art.

"Cycladic art is modern, people respond to it immediately, it doesn't make them tired," she told Reuters in an interview in the marble-and-glass-fronted museum specially built in central Athens to house the collection of more than 200 objects.

It is the only Cycladic art museum in the world.

Mrs. Goulondris, widow of shipping magnate Nicholas Goulondris to whom the museum is dedicated, began collecting Cycladic art objects 25 years ago partly out of personal interest and partly to prevent them from being sold abroad.

"For me Cycladic art, which was neglected by scholars until fairly recently, is a passion," she said.

The striking similarity between Cycladic and modern sculpture is emphasised on the museum's third floor, where photographs of works

by Modigliani, Moore and Picasso are put side by side with almost identical Cycladic works.

The 17 Cyclades islands in the central Aegean grew prosperous between 3,200 and 2,000 B.C. by exporting locally-mined copper and bronze. They were eclipsed at the end of the millennium by the rise of Minoan Crete.

As no written documentation from the Cycladic period has survived, scholars can only speculate on the purpose of the statues and figurines.

Christos Doumias, archaeology professor at Athens University and an expert on the Cycladic period, thinks some of the figurines could be fertility symbols or they may have been put in graves as gifts for the dead.

"The Cycladic people seem to have been the first to invent a way of representing the divine in a human form," he said.

Patou tops Paris fashion show

By Irma Bossy-Ghica
Reuters

PARIS — The eccentric designs of the small Paris fashion house Jean Patou have taken top honours at the end of a week-long show of high-fashion collections.

Patou designer Christian Lacroix was awarded the "Golden Thimble," the coveted Oscar of the fashion world, for the "best, most creative, and most elegant collection."

The award, first created in 1977, is given twice a year at the end of the spring/summer and autumn/winter shows, the two highlights of the Paris fashion calendar.

Patou, which has never before won the thimble, presented a quirky collection, rich in eccentricity with giant floppy hats and cabbage-shaped dresses in charity lace.

The collection won rapturous

applause during the show, though some critics accused the house of creating clothes that were unwearable even by the accommodating standards of high-fashion.

Emphasising the artistic and imaginative dimension of haute-couture, Patou showed a witty and varied collection of garments carrying exotic names such as Mogambo, Habanera, Tatoo and Caprice.

Professor of parapsychology experiments with the supernatural

By Kathy Marks
Reuters

EDINBURGH, Scotland — A quiet, softly-spoken American has just started work here as one of only two professors of parapsychology in the world — he is investigating whether some people can put a jinx on machines. "Some people react to machines much better than others, and I'm interested in the possibility that there is some kind of psychic component involved," Robert Morris told Reuters in his office at the 400-year-old Edinburgh University.

Morris' new job takes him into the realm of telepathy, mind-over-matter and things that go bump in the night.

His controversial chair is financed by a 500,000-sterling (700,000-dollar) endowment in the will of writer Arthur Koestler, whose bequest was seen as an attempt to gain wider academic acceptance for the paranormal.

Koestler, who first won fame for his political novels and autobiographical works but later wrote mostly about science, died in 1983 at the age of 77. He became fascinated by the paranormal late in life and wrote "The Roots of Coincidence," his most important book about parapsychology, in 1972.

Morris' students, undeterred by the reporters and photographers who have descended on the university since he began work in December, are already strapping people to chairs in dark rooms to test them for extra-sensory perception.

Morris himself will have no trouble finding guinea pigs for his experiments. His desk is overflowing with letters from fans relating strange experiences or claiming paranormal powers. "But don't expect us to produce a new ghost every week or check out every psychic claim that comes along," Morris warns. "The sensational cases that crop up from time to time teach us very little. They only benefit that person's bankroll and are usually faked anyway."

He is interested in exploring Scottish folklore to see what it suggests for future research. "On the Isle of Skye, for instance, many residents claim to have second sight but say their gift vanishes as soon as they cross over to the mainland."

A student, Julie Milton, 24, from Scunthorpe in northeast England, uses what is known as the Ganzfeld technique to test people's powers of clairvoyance. Subjects are strapped to a chair in a small, dark room and placed in a state of sensory deprivation — ping-pong balls over the eyes, a red light shining on their face and a dull tone played to them through earphones — which is supposed to make them more receptive to spontaneous imagery.

Their remarks are then monitored as they try to describe an intricate picture locked away in a cupboard next door.

He has learnt the hard way to be constantly on the lookout for fraud and believes one of the reasons he was selected for the chair from an impressive array of applicants from all over the world is the respect he has earned from sceptics.

Before his appointment, some work on parapsychology had been done at Edinburgh as part of psychology courses by Dr. John Beloff.

Beloff told Reuters: "We now hope to establish parapsychology as an option within the psychology course, and maybe a little degree in it — but that's looking very far to the future."

Singer Placido Domingo to give millions to quake victims

By Katerina Syrimi
Reuters

IRAKLION, Greece — For Placido Domingo, one of the world's top opera tenors, the horror of the Mexican earthquake struck a tragic personal blow.

Domingo, who emigrated to Mexico from Spain as a child and has Mexican a wife, lost an uncle, aunt, nephew and cousin in September's quake, an experience which he says has profoundly affected his life. The earthquake killed about 7,000 people.

Now he hopes to donate about \$4 million to the victims of the earthquake after cancelling many engagements to sing a series of charity concerts.

He flew to Mexico from Chicago the day after the quake and spent 12 days helping to rescue survivors and look after the injured.

"I can't describe what it was like," Domingo told Reuters in an interview in this port city on the island of Crete, where he was making a film of Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Otello" directed by Franco Zeffirelli.

"The noise, the screaming, the despair affected me deeply."

Domingo said he had recently started singing again after a two-month break. The rest had been advised by doctors because of problems with his voice caused by a mask he had to wear against infection.

"My voice is fine now and I'd like to give up a whole year for charity concerts but theatres and managers won't let me," he said

Morris himself seems baffled by the blaze of publicity which heralded his appointment and oblivious to the shockwave it sent through Britain's orthodox academic world.

Few dons in academia will accept the paranormal as worthy of serious research, says Morris — an attitude reflected in the fact there is only one other chair like his in the world — at the Dutch University of Utrecht.

"I know some people treat parapsychology as a joke," says Morris. "But the way I see it, we have some unusual mental powers which we don't understand too well, and it would be helpful to throw some light on them."

He has an unexpected ally in the heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, whose interest in the paranormal is well known.

Formerly a senior research scientist in computer studies at Syracuse University in New York State, Morris has been involved in parapsychology for the last 20 years at various universities in the United States. He says his fascination stems from intellectual curiosity rather than personal experience of otherworldly happenings.

One of his students, 28-year-old Sheri Cohn from New York, however, who is

Meeting agenda promises to renew struggle over future of English League

LONDON (R) — Officials of the English Football League are heading for another showdown with the country's top soccer clubs just weeks after the two sides had apparently patched up their differences over the future of the game.

The league Tuesday published the agenda for an extraordinary general meeting next month when the structure of the 92-club league is likely to be altered radically to head off threats by the top clubs to form a super-league.

The clubs want the majority needed to vote for changes in the league's structure to be reduced to 66 per cent from the present 75 per cent.

But the agenda shows the league's management committee aims to retain the 75 per cent mark for major decisions while introducing a 60 per cent majority for less important matters like finance and transfer regulations.

The second point of difference

between the two sides concerns the make-up of the management committee itself.

Top clubs want to scrap the present system of representation based on regions and establish an eight-man committee comprising four from the first division, three from the second and an associate member.

Such a move would most probably force the resignation of league president Jack Dunnett, who is chairman of a third division club, Notts County.

But the agenda, which was prepared by Dunnett, does not mention changing the means of election, leaving the way clear for the Notts County chairman to serve a

sixth year.

The remainder of the agenda for the March 4 meeting is as expected:

— A reduction in the number of clubs in the first division to 20 from 22 by the end of the 1987-88 season and an increase in the second division to 24 clubs from 22.

— The 19th-placed first division team would take part in a play-off with the teams finishing third, fourth and fifth in the second for the remaining first division place.

— The club finishing bottom of the fourth division will be replaced by the champions of the Gola minor league providing the latter has adequate facilities.

— 50 per cent of all future league sponsorship will go to first division clubs and 25 per cent to the second division.

— More television cash will go to clubs who actually appear in televised games.

Bearzot doesn't like Italy's odds

By Clare Fallois
Rome

ROME — The euphoria has long since faded, but memories of the night three-and-a-half years ago when Italy won the World Cup have returned to haunt manager Enzo Bearzot.

The mantle of defending champions weighs heavily on the Italians as they approach this year's Finals in Mexico.

Bearzot freely admits the odds are stacked against his side succeeding a second time.

"According to the law of probability, it is virtually impossible to win again," he said. "Since World War II only Brazil have managed it—in 1958 and 1962—but they had Pelé."

But the Italians have had a miserable time since they lifted the trophy in Spain in 1982 and their fortunes dipped to an all-time low when they failed to reach the finals of the European Championship in France two years ago.

Little is left of Bearzot's victorious 1982 side and a succession of friendly internationals have so far failed to produce a side to equal it.

Yet Bearzot, who is expected to name his 22-man squad at the end of April, remains far from dis-

couraged, remembering the two previous World Cups when unheralded players emerged late to challenge for places.

"I am curious to see if, at the last moment, something or someone interesting emerges, as happened just before Argentina in 1978 and Spain in 1982," Bearzot said.

Fullback Antonio Cabrini and centre-forward Paolo Rossi were last-minute inclusions in the side which finished fourth in Argentina.

Rossi scored three goals during the 1978 Finals and became a national hero in 1982 when his six goals, including a hat-trick against Brazil, helped Italy to victory.

Full back Giuseppe Bergomi, now a pillar of the national team, was also a late addition to the Italian side in Spain after winning his first cap just three months before.

As holders, Italy had automatic entry to this year's Finals and will open the competition against Bulgaria in Mexico City on May 31. Their other opponents in Group A are Argentina and South Korea.

Without the qualifying tournament, Bearzot has had to rely on friendlies to experiment.

Rain and snow, which twice prevented a "B" international against The Netherlands being played in Genoa last month, rob-

bed him of the chance to blood a crop of young players waiting in the wings.

He had planned to use Aldo Serena as a lone central striker flanked by two wingers, newcomers Gianluca Vialli of Sampdoria and Paolo Baldieri of Pisa.

But with the match now unlikely to be rescheduled because of a tight programme, Bearzot has turned back to the established stars for a friendly against West Germany in Avellino Wednesday.

He initially called up six of the side who played in the 3-1 win over the Germans in the Madrid World Cup Final, including Rossi, who has not been in the national side for 10 months, winger Bruno Conti and Sandro Altobelli.

But injury, which has dogged Rossi all season, has returned to put the player's place in doubt.

The Italians plan two more friendlies at home, against Austria and Yugoslavia, before travelling to Mexico on May 15. Another warm-up match is being planned in Mexico City against Honduras.

Bearzot has few problems in defence where World Cup veterans Antonio Cabrini, Giuseppe Bergomi and Fulvio Collovati continue to flourish alongside newcomers like Pietro Vierchowod and Roberto Tricella.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ickx to give up endurance racing

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian driver Jacky Ickx, world champion in 1982 and 1983, said Tuesday he was giving up endurance car racing. Ickx, 41, who won 11 Formula One Grands Prix between 1968 and 1974 before concentrating on endurance events, told the Belgian newspaper Le Soir: "It's like a gambler in the casino. He wins and wins, and then one day he has to stop or else he will lose the lot." Ickx, speaking in Monte Carlo, said he would devote himself to "other things which please and amuse me in other areas." He added that he expected his association with Porsche to continue but his place in the West German manufacturer's endurance team would be taken by German driver Bob Wollek.

Three charged for sports violence

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore hockey player and two others were charged in court Tuesday for involvement in a free-for-all during a friendly international match between Singapore and Oman in which several Omanis were injured. Farleigh Clarke and two Singapore spectators were alleged to have used hockey sticks or chairs to harm the Oman players during the match last September. Three Omanis, including team manager Ahmad Saleem Raidan, suffered head and face injuries when spectators and players from both sides clashed, forcing the match to be abandoned 22 minutes from time, the court heard. The case will be heard next month.

Second Hong Kong-Peking rally planned

PEKING (AP) — China will be host to a second Hong Kong-to-Peking Motor Rally from Sept. 14 to 19 this year, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday, quoting the China Motor Sports Association. Last September's 3,400-kilometre route will be expanded by 360 kilometres and the race will have 23 stages, one more than in 1985, it said. A trial run is planned for July, following problems in the 1985 race including lack of gasoline at several refuelling points. Hannu Mikkola of Finland won last year's race, which had 36 competitors from 14 countries.

Yusupov ends Timman's playoff hopes

TILBURG, The Netherlands (R) — Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union beat Dutchman Jan Timman Monday for a place in the final of the competition to select a world chess championship challenger.

England B racks up first win of Sri Lankan tour

KANDY, Sri Lanka (R) — England B scored the first win of their Sri Lanka cricket tour Tuesday, registering an exciting four-run victory in the third and final one-day game against the island team.

Chasing a target of 195, the Sri Lankans were 185 for nine at the start of the last over bowled by Derek Pringle.

The first five balls yielded five runs to last-wicket pair Hashan Tillekeratne, who made 22 not out, and Roger Wijesuriya before Wijesuriya was run out for 13 off the last ball.

Fast bowler David Lawrence undermined the Sri Lankan innings with two wickets in three balls in the eighth over to make the total 24 for two.

Asanka Gurusinghe was run out for 16 before Arjuna Ranatunga and opener Amal Silva added 43 for the fourth wicket, the stand being broken by Tim Tremlett who cut his pace to bowl off spin and had Ranatunga caught for 22.

Silva went on to make 53 in 170 minutes but until schoolboy Tillekeratne batted, the later batsmen provided little resistance.

Earlier England B skipper Mark Nicholas, who was named Man-of-the-Match, struck a fighting 50. Stephen Rhodes (35) and Pringle (24) figured in an enthralling seventh-wicket stand of 60 in only seven overs to lift the total to 194 for nine from 45 overs.

Vladimir Salnikov, the USSR's venerable 'old man' of swimming

By Derek Parr
Rome

PARIS — Vladimir Salnikov, doyen of world swimming, has seized the challenge of a world championship comeback, with coaching help from his wife.

In swimming's world of teenage prodigies, the supreme Soviet distance freestyler has defied time both on poolside clocks and in the length of his competitive career, struggling off the challenges of rivals for the best part of a decade.

The years seemed to have caught up with him when he dipped out of the international spotlight for most of 1985. But he has resurfaced with an audacious new target for 1986 — next August's World Championships in Madrid. He was a double gold medalist at both the last two in 1978 and 1982.

Salnikov, nearing 26 and venerable in swimming terms, suffered a rare defeat here last weekend when he was beaten for finishing speed over 400 metres by East German Uwe Dassler, seven years his junior, in the annual Boulogne-Billancourt short-course meeting, though he was streets ahead in the 1,500.

Swimming archivists delved back to 1983 for his last defeat. He has not been bettered in a major championship since 1981 when he was second to Yugoslav Borut Petric in the European Championships 400 metres in split to the surprise of all.

Nobody has beaten Salnikov over 1,500 metres for eight years, during which time he has amassed world, Olympic and European titles and an array of world records. Salnikov returned to international competition only last December with two wins in the European Cup in The Netherlands after a year dogged by injury and illness.

"I'm not in good shape. My results are so-so. But this year the only competition which is important for me is the World Championships," he told Reuters in a

poolside interview here.

"I feel it's a pity that I lost the 400 freestyle but my general goal is the world championships and this year I train a lot. Only my wife helps. She's an amateur coach." He said his old trainer Igor Krshkin was now involved in other coaching.

Salnikov and his wife Marina have been married for three years. "She studied track and field athletics, but since I met her she switched to swimming," he smiled.

He says his training mileage is a little smaller than it once was. "The maximum I did was 97,000 metres a week. Now I try to listen to my feelings," he said.

Salnikov is deservedly regarded as the greatest distance swimmer of all time — his exceptional status illustrated here by groups of fellow competitors asking him for autographs in notebooks and on swimming caps.

He may not have the towering physical stature of younger giant-sized freestylers such as West German Michael Gross or Frenchman Stephan Caron. But flawless technique, formidable training standards and mental toughness have brought him peerless consistency.

The years of invincibility have imposed extra pressures. "Certainly it's very difficult to stay at the top for a long time as I have done," said Salnikov, who moved to Moscow in October 1982 after studying in Leningrad and is now engaged on post-graduate studies at the Institute of Physical Culture.

"For seven or eight years I haven't lost a 1,500 freestyle to anybody. It's a big responsibility because a lot of people want to beat me and every competition I took part in for the last several years was very important."

But after his long absence from competition he now wants to concentrate on just one target. He said he suffered from a left shoulder injury after the 1984 "Friendship Games" in Moscow, the Soviet-bloc replacement for the

boycotted Los Angeles Olympics.

"I needed time to take care of my shoulder trouble. I was out of international competition but I took part in the summer national championships last year. I was preparing for the European Championships but unfortunately I got sick and couldn't take part," Salnikov, freely in English, said.

"I had a high temperature. I was sick for a long time and I realised I couldn't prepare for the European Championships."

Salnikov, aiming to race over 400 and 1,500 metres in Madrid, sees his leading rivals as Dassler, a couple of top Americans and, if the West German chooses to swim the 400, Gross, who grabbed the Russian's world record last year.

Dassler, who inherited Salnikov's European 400 and 1,500 metres crowns by default last August, was barely nine when Salnikov began setting European records in 1976 — the year he finished fifth in the Montreal Olympics 1,500 metres final.

Salnikov imposed new standards in distance swimming — first to break eight minutes for 800 metres, first to beat three minutes 50 seconds for 400 and, in a classic performance at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, first to swim a sub-15-minute 1,500.

He set successions of world records over all three distances and his 7:52.33 for 800 and 14:54.76 for 1,500, both dating back to 1983, still stand. He won three European 1,500 metres titles in a row and completed 400 and 1,500 doubles at the 1980 Moscow Olympics and the 1978 and 1982 World Championships in West Berlin and Guayaquil, Ecuador.

"If I had won the 400 and 1,500 metres breaking the world records I would certainly have very seriously envisaged ending my career. But no record fell... and I was left with a general feeling of dissatisfaction," he was quoted as saying in a Soviet press interview a year ago.

Italy and Germany each need victory

AVELLINO, Italy (R) — Italy meet West Germany in a repeat of the 1982 World Cup Final Wednesday, with both sides needing a morale-boosting victory after a series of setbacks.

The Italians won that final 3-1 but, just three months before the start of the 1986 Finals, they are hardly showing the form of world champions.

Last November Italy, who failed to qualify for the 1984 European Championships, were defeated 1-0 by fellow-finalists Poland. But more humiliatingly they also suffered a 2-1 home defeat by Norway in September.

West Germany, who could not progress beyond the first round of the European Championships, go into the friendly in this southern Italian town with an even worse record.

Six matches without a win have included defeats by England, Mexico, the Soviet Union and Portugal, all of whom will be in the Mexico Finals.

Both Italy's coach Enzo Bearzot and his opposite number Franz Beckenbauer therefore see the match as an important indicator of their World Cup chances.

But the opportunity to gain any useful experience from the match has been reduced by injury.

Bearzot is without his first choice sweeper Gaetano Scirea, his first choice midfielder playmaker,

Antonio Di Gennaro, and Paolo Rossi, the striker whose six goals helped Italy win the World Cup.

These three will be replaced by Roberto Tricella, Carlo Ancelotti and Aldo Serena respectively.

Serena's selection is the most interesting. Currently joint top scorer in the Italian league, he seems certain to push Rossi hard for a place in Mexico.

The West German side continues to suffer from the self-imposed absence of arguably the best contemporary German player, Bernd Schuster of Barcelona.

His midfield role will be filled Wednesday by the ageing Felix Magath.

In attack, Beckenbauer may well try 19-year-old Olaf Thon alongside the experienced pairing of Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Klaus Allofs.

Beckenbauer had intended to use Wolfgang Hanes as sweeper but his injury-enforced absence means a return to first team duty for Klaus Augenthaler.

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5. TWO PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS for grades 1-2 and grades 4-6. Must be native speakers of English, fully qualified, and with at least 3 years' experience.
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Application forms are available from the school. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 12 February, and interviews will take place shortly after this date.

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bond markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.3677/87	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.4445/55	Canadian dollars
	2.4170/80	West German marks
	2.7300/10	Dutch guilders
	2.0465/75	Swiss francs
	49.38/43	Belgian francs
	7.4050/4100	French francs
	1644/1645	Italian lire
	192.15/25	Japanese yen
	7.5860/5910	Swedish crowns
	7.5100/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.9040/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	337.00/338.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market was higher on balance in a moderately active session in response to better than expected U.K. money supply estimates for January, dealers said. At 1545 GMT the FT 30 was 8.8 up at 1164.1 having reached an intra day high of 1164.7 and the FTSE 100 index was 6.1 up at 1431.2.

Prices were easier at the outset on fresh concern over lower crude prices which depressed sterling. News that bank lending rose only £400 million against expectations of as much as £4 billion prompted sterling to rally, dealers added.

Government bonds showed net gains of up to 1/2 point. North Americans firmed but gold shares were lower.

Leading industrials were firmer, with ICI up 7p to 834, and Glaxo 15p higher at 883. Jaguar ended 16p firmer at 428, mostly on U.S. demand, dealers said. In lower oils, B.P. lost 10p at 558 but Shell was unchanged at 668.

B.L. finished 29p up at 71, compared with last Friday's close of 35p. after the company's board confirmed talks with General Motors over the possible sale of its commercial vehicles division. Rowntree Macintosh added 20p to 228 on speculative buying. Westland ended 10p lower at 113. In higher stores, Dixons rose 10p to 972.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, you are under good influences to decide the policies and the goals under which you would most like to live in the days ahead and to make changes where necessary.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You get fine ideas in the morning, and should discuss them with one who can give you backing you need.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Organize your activities more intelligently so that you make greater progress and increase happiness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A talk with a partner can bring fine ideas that should be put in motion quickly so that you can both benefit from them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Take time to make promises that you have made more efficiently and profitably for you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Spend the morning perfecting some special talents you possess and then make a big hit with them in the afternoon and evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Talk over with kin how to make your home more charming and smooth-running, and then make the right changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Morning is fine for handling correspondence and clearing your desk of bills. Then the evening can be charming at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get busy working out present financial arrangements in the morning, and tonight concentrate on how to be more productive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study your wishes carefully and know how best to attain them, then full speed ahead at gaining them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get the advice you need from experts so that you can gain what means the most to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be positive in going after your aims in the morning, but tonight use tact and subtle ways. Be charming.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Handle any credit or public affairs in the morning, and tonight pursue personal desires, and gain them.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will want to learn a great deal and possess a fine mentality. Give as thorough an educational course as you can and your progeny will make very good use of it, especially in the business world, and can be very successful. Make sure that spiritual training is given early for best results.

THE Daily Crossword by W. Russell McDowell

ACROSS

1. Fictional
2. Trash
3. Figure man
4. Skirt type
5. Low
6. Seed cover
7. Baseball
8. Blowing coal
9. Extinct bird
10. Born native
11. abbr.
12. Latin abbr.
13. Living coat
14. plan
15. At all times
16. Wizard of
17. Shinto Park
18. Gaudy house
19. Small fish
20. Turk. title
21. Scratch out
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23. Large oak
24. Dry
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Lebanese lira sinks to record low amid fears of greater lawlessness

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound plunged to a record low against the dollar again Tuesday, pushing up food prices and sparking fears of greater lawlessness in the embattled country.

Dealers said the pound hit a record low of 27.50 against the dollar before closing at 21.50/22.50 after last-minute intervention by the central bank. It ended the day Monday at a record closing low of 24.60/25.00.

Local residents said they feared growing economic crisis would encourage gunmen to take the law into their own hands to obtain money and essential goods.

The crisis has been fuelled by inter-Christian feuding over a collapsed militia peace accord to end a decade-long civil war that has cost at least 100,000 lives.

"They are killing us in a different way — through horrible prices," said Mrs. Samira Shukr, a 36-year-old housewife.

A banker, noting that the pound stood at nine to the dollar in January last year, said people had lost confidence in their own currency and were buying dollars at any price.

"They know the dollar will continue to rise," he added.

Mr. Majid Jumblatt, a deputy central bank governor, said the bank sold \$27 million before Tuesday's close. "We are ready to intervene more tomorrow if dealers continue to speculate," he said.

A businessman said that in civil war people felt insecure, even at police stations.

But the economic crisis "means more trouble — more car thefts,

more demands for protection money and more armed robberies in Lebanese homes."

Homeowners were installing security devices to head off violent robbery after the peace accord collapsed.

"People are buying iron gates, but all these measures can stop only individuals. Five or six armed men can do whatever they like," the businessman said.

"There is no obvious impact right now on law and order," said a security source. "People have patience and money, but both commodities might run out in a month or two."

A woman shopper told a local television: "It's not just economic crisis. We fear famine, like Africa."

Israelis protest rising unemployment

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — One million workers stopped work for two hours Tuesday to protest rising unemployment, an official of the Histadrut Trade Union Federation said.

Almost the entire public and private sector, including radio, television, airports and schools, closed down in what was billed by the Histadrut as a warning strike. Commercial and industrial workers held protest meetings but did not halt production lines.

Histadrut Spokesman Shmuel Soler told the Associated Press the strike was in protest of "the deterioration in the employment situation. Every day another plant folds."

According to labour and welfare ministry figures, unemployment is now running at 7.5 per cent, about 1.5 per cent higher than a year ago.

Some economic analysts are warning that the jobless rate could reach 10 per cent following the government's emergency economic plan.

The programme, which went into effect last July, called for the dismissal of three per cent of Israeli civil service employees, caused the cancellation of some government contracts and tightened credit for businesses and individuals.

Government officials say the unemployment rate in some towns, inhabited mainly by the families of Jews who immigrated from the Arab countries in the 1950s, is as high as 15 to 20 per cent.

The Histadrut has criticised the government's budget proposal for

1986, which calls for additional cuts in spending and wage restrictions.

"It is anti-welfare policy which provides for greater unemployment, lack of economic growth, and deterioration of education and welfare services," the Histadrut said in a statement.

Lavi stirs controversy

Meanwhile, the head of Israel Aircraft Industries said some senior military officers want to stop development of the first Israeli-produced fighter jet because they are competing for allocations from a shrinking defence budget, Israeli newspapers reported Tuesday.

But Mr. David Ivri, also a former commander of the Israeli Air Force, told Davar newspaper such cancellation would be a serious mistake. "Whoever closes down the project will be eating up the future in the fullest sense of the word," he said.

Israel's defence budget was cut during 1985 from \$3.2 billion to \$2.55 billion, excluding \$1.4 billion of defence aid.

Major General Dan Shomron, who is the military's deputy chief of staff, said last month development of the plane was too costly and was not a top priority for the defence establishment.

The fighter known as the Lavi, "lion" in Hebrew, has been controversial since its conception in 1975, but debate over the plane has seldom been so public. It was prompted by a change in U.S. regulations surrounding American funding for the project.

The U.S. government, which has contributed \$750 million to the project over the past three years, recently decided to allow the \$250 million earmarked annually for the Lavi to be spent anywhere the Israeli defence establishment chose.

Full-scale production is scheduled to start in 1990 with the first prototype of the fighter ready by September.

Mr. Ivri said stopping the project would be expensive. "The cost of halting the Lavi project will be \$200 million in fines and compensation. I believe this debt will come out of the defence budget," he told Haaretz newspaper.

More than 2,000 workers will have to leave Israel to find work if the project is stopped, Mr. Ivri said.

Both Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin support the project.

"I am convinced that at this stage halting the project would be a mistake. We must continue and complete the development of the Lavi," Rabin said Monday on Israeli Radio.

Mr. Ivri said the fighter will cost between \$13.5 and \$15 million per plane. U.S. government analysts have been quoted as predicting the cost could be two to three times that.

The Lavi is to replace the ageing U.S.-made A-4 Skyhawks, F-4 Phantoms and the Israeli-made Kfir. The Lavi will join U.S.-made F-15s and F-16s as the backbone of the air force.

OPEC special committee ends talks, recommends raising oil output ceiling

VIENNA (Agencies) — An Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) special committee ended two days of talks here Tuesday and recommended raising the group's oil output ceiling, currently 16 million barrels per day (b/d), committee chairman and Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said.

But he said no specific figure for the increased ceiling was decided on because "that is the duty of the (full ministerial) conference."

When asked when the next full OPEC ministerial conference would meet, he said that had not yet been agreed.

OPEC ministers faced a choice of trying to maintain the group's market share, and let prices find their own level, or cutting back output in an attempt to bolster world prices.

Mr. Hernandez said the committee — which also included the oil ministers of Iraq, Kuwait, Indonesia and the UAE — had reached the unanimous conclusion that a fair share of the world oil market should be higher than the present self-imposed production ceiling.

He added that the committee had agreed "ways and means of reaching this," but did not elaborate.

He said the committee emphasised the absolute need for increased cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers to strike a better balance between oil supply and demand.

Prices crash

Traders gave OPEC a vote of no-confidence as crude oil prices fell by \$3 on the European spot market Tuesday bringing the cost of one barrel to almost half the oil's value in just three months.

Britain's North Sea Brent grade, the most sensitive pointer to world trends, breached the \$10 barrier and traders said there were unconfirmed reports that a cargo loading in April was sold Tuesday for \$15.80 a barrel.

OPEC's recommendation to raise the cartel's production ceiling was met with dismay by traders.

One London-based trader, who asked not to be named, described such a move as ludicrous and said it would inflict a heavy psychological blow, given that world markets were already awash with unwanted oil.

Analysts noted that Saudi Arabia, which dominates OPEC, was not represented at the meeting and this inevitably devalued the decision.

Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani Monday cast doubt on whether the committee could make any effective decisions.

Predictions by Sheikh Yamani that oil prices could collapse to \$15 sent shockwaves through the industry just a week ago.

But with prices now in a free fall — they have lost more than \$5 in less than three weeks — traders

reserves.

Instead of negotiating debt concessions with its heavily indebted neighbour, the paper said in an editorial, the United States could buy as much as an extra half million barrels of oil a day from Mexico.

Mexico, which owes \$95 billion to foreign banks, could earn \$3 billion a year from such a deal, an amount which would virtually cover its losses from the dramatic one-third drop in world oil prices, the paper said.

Such an agreement would help the United States to reach its goal of 750 million barrels of oil in government reserves, the paper said.

"It is hard to imagine a more cost-effective investment in national security — and financial stability — than helping Mexico to help us fill the strategic reserve," the newspaper said.

Japan fears new

In Tokyo, Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said Tuesday that the sudden drop in world oil prices is likely to result in new headaches for Japan by boosting the country's overall trade surplus.

Japan is already under pressure from its trading partners to cut its surplus with the rest of the world, which reached a record \$49.27 billion in 1985, according to Japanese government figures.

"The sudden drop in the price of crude oil has a major economic effect on industrialised and developing countries and Japan favours more stable price changes," a foreign ministry official quoted Mr. Abe as saying.

With the lowered prices, "we will have a new problem with increases in the trade surplus," he was quoted as telling Ms. Helga Steeg, executive director of the International Energy Agency, who is on an official visit to Japan.

Japan imported 195.95 billion litres (1.23 billion barrels) of oil in 1985 at a cost of \$34.6 billion, the finance ministry reported.

The foreign ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Ms. Steeg met with Mr. Abe for 20 minutes to discuss the world energy situation.

She was quoted as telling Mr. Abe that in the long run, the price drop would not change the supply and demand situation for oil.

In London the British government has come under fire from its main opposition Labour Party for failing to open a dialogue with OPEC aimed at restoring stability to the world oil market.

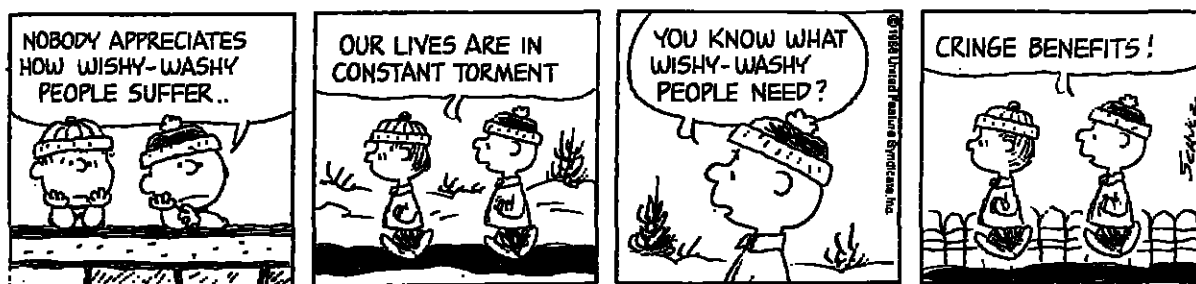
The Labour Party spokesman declared: "We want a more stable situation — hence the need for talks with OPEC, and other non-OPEC producing countries as well."

While conceding that agreement would be "difficult," she said a global oil market dialogue should concentrate on "production levels in OPEC and outside OPEC."

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHUVO

AUFAN

EXVONC

AREPPA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: INLET HAIRY INFUSE PRYING
Answer: The pianist was a musician to this — HIS FINGERTIPS

Aquino aides reject Marcos offer of campaign debate

Opposition reports 1 million rally turnout in Manila

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos challenged Corason Aquino to a U.S.-style campaign debate on television but the opposition leader's aides turned it down.

Mr. Marcos made the offer only a day before campaigning ends for Friday's election. He told a meeting of businessmen he was ready to meet Mrs. Aquino face-to-face on Philippine television Tuesday night or Wednesday.

Mrs. Aquino was out vote catching in the streets of Manila when Mr. Marcos threw down the challenge. But her spokesman, Rene Saguisag, turned it down.

He told Reuters: "We believe this invitation was meant to be refused. It's very short notice and Cory has engagements lined up for this evening and tomorrow."

Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Aquino are being interviewed in a U.S. television broadcast to be shown Wednesday night in the United States. But it cannot be shown in the Philippines.

Where it would be Thursday morning and past the deadline for campaigning.

Mr. Saguisag said Mrs. Aquino

hoped the U.S. broadcast could be advanced so that it could be shown in Manila.

Mrs. Aquino urged Mr. Marcos early in the campaign to agree to a public debate but he turned it down when she insisted it should be held in the open in a Manila square.

Mr. Marcos said he was making arrangements for the government-run Channel-4 network or the commercial Channel-7 station prepare for the debate in case Mrs. Aquino accepted his offer.

He added: "I hope my opponent will not bring any bodyguards, especially from the Communist New People's Army. We should be alone together."

Mr. Marcos made his offer as international observers began arriving in Manila to watch for cheating and violence on polling day. Hundreds of thousands of people

swarmed through the streets of Manila Tuesday night to see Mrs. Aquino wind up her campaign in the capital for Friday's election.

Organisers put the crowd at one million — a sixth of Metropolitan Manila's population. Reporters at the scene said it was impossible to make an accurate count but described it as the biggest political rally seen in the Philippines.

Hours before Mrs. Aquino was due to speak, the streets were jammed with people heading for Luneta Park in the heart of Manila. Shops and offices closed early as men, women and children wearing yellow T-shirts, Mr. Aquino's colours, surged towards the rally ground.

They flashed the opposition's thumb and finger victory L-sign for Laban ("fight"), exploded firecrackers and tossed tons of yellow confetti.

More confetti rained from office buildings, covering the crowd that brought evening rush hour traffic to a halt.

President Ferdinand Marcos, who has drawn crowds of less than 20,000 at most of his appearances

in Manila, will wrap up his campaign in the same park before campaigning officially ends at midnight Wednesday.

The military reported 11 soldiers killed in new Communist rebel attacks.

The killings in two separate Communist rebel ambushes in the far north of the Philippines Monday raised the official death toll from guerrilla violence to at least 93 in the last two weeks of campaigning.

The military said nine soldiers were killed when their patrol was ambushed at Namburan, about 300 kilometres north of Manila. Two more soldiers were shot dead in nearby Rizal a few hours later.

Military spokesmen have said the NPA is making a big push in the run up to the election.

A 20-member U.S. official delegation, led by Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is due Wednesday. A 44-strong international team of observers sponsored by the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties started arriving Tuesday.

Soviets urge Europe to back arms plan

MOSCOW (R) — Pravda Tuesday called on European governments, political parties and peoples to act without delay in support of new Soviet disarmament proposals.

An editorial in the Soviet Communist Party daily said the first stage of the plan, covering the removal of U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles, would strengthen European security and contribute to ending the arms race.

"On the European continent all the conditions for overcoming the

separation of East and West now exist, especially in questions of security and mutual cooperation."

Pravda said, "Europe is entirely capable of giving a 'European answer' to the challenge of our times."

The Kremlin proposal to eliminate nuclear arms by the year 2000 was presented by Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachev on Jan. 15. Soviet state media have strongly promoted the proposals, but Western disarmament negotiators say the Sov-

iet side has failed to provide sufficient details.

Pravda dismissed arguments against the first stage and warned: "There can be no delay. Once and for all to stop the arms race and turn the course of international events to the path of peaceful development, it is necessary for governments, parties and peoples to act, and act without delay."

European peoples were awaiting a serious and businesslike U.S. response to the Soviet proposals, Pravda said.

Pope gets warm welcome from headhunters

SHILLONG, India (R) — Exuberant cheering crowds, including sword-waving converted headhunters, welcomed Pope John Paul II as he arrived here Tuesday to celebrate mass in the verdant, rolling hills of India's north eastern frontier.

More than 150,000 people jammed into this 1,524-metre high city as the Pope arrived by limousine for a three-hour visit. Some had travelled for days and camped near the mass site.

"For me the Pope is a small God and I'm very happy to come and meet him," said Chief Neanika Abraham, leader of a band of 600 Konyaknaga headhunters, now all Catholic converts, who travelled 1,000 kilometres to see the Pontiff.

The 62-year-old chief, garbed in a leather loincloth and a feathered headdress, told reporters through a translator he was bap-

tised in 1984 and had gone on his last headhunting raid in 1967. He said he had five heads to his credit.

The Pope had left Calcutta earlier in the day to fly to this remote hill station in the tea-growing state of Meghalaya — "abode of the clouds" in the local dialect.

The enthusiastic welcome mirrored the warmth shown Monday as he arrived in India's largest city, Calcutta, where he had an emotional visit to Mother Teresa at her home for the destitute dying in one of the city's worst slums.

The Pope needed the special permission of the Indian government for Tuesday trip since the areas, which border Bangladesh to the north and west, are normally closed to foreigners because of border considerations and problems with continuing tribal separatists.

Catholic missionaries arrived around 1890 and began con-

verting the animist tribes people in what are now called the "seven sisters of the north east" — the five states and the union territories connected to the rest of India by a narrow corridor between China and Bangladesh.

Red-garbed tribal dancers and crowds singing "Hallelujah, Hallelujah," greeted the Pontiff as he mounted an altar platform of green-painted bamboo set on a hilltop on a sprawling golf links.

He brought a mostly religious message to the worshippers, praising the missionary efforts that have converted nearly 500,000 people, mostly tribesmen, to Catholicism in efforts that began about 100 years ago.

He also commended efforts to blend Catholicism into local traditions but cautioned this must be done in the context of the Christian gospel and not lead to excesses.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARAH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A6 ♣K4 ♦K5 ♣AKQ9873
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South
Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A. — In light of the auction, we would give up all thoughts of slam. Indeed, even 11 tricks at five clubs might be out of reach. We think that your best chance for game lies at three no trump. As we see in partner's hand, or even a second spade stopper, would give you nine tricks off the top. Bid three no trump.

Q.2 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK6 ♣K10854 ♦K ♣AK65
The bidding has proceeded:
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A. — If you simply bid four hearts, we won't fault you — the point of the question is that, despite your powerful hand and partner's positive rebid, you must give up all thoughts of slam. Why? Because it sounds to us that partner's values are in diamonds and spades, and that he has three low hearts. The choice now is between games, and we would choose three no trump — nine tricks might prove easier than 10.

Q.3 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠762 ♦A542 ♣AK963
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A. — Obviously, you don't like no trump, but you shouldn't take a preference to a suit that partner has not rebid when you hold only three low cards in that suit. Tell partner that you have at least 10 cards in the minor suits by rebidding three clubs.

Q.4 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J ♣AQ10652 ♦AJ63 ♠53
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A. — Even though partner has shown a minimum no trump opening with trump support (with a maximum he would have made a cue-bid rather than raise to four hearts), you could easily make a slam if you don't have two fast losers in clubs. Your distributional values are worth one move. Cue-bid five diamonds. If partner cannot accept the invitation, you have done your duty.

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠QJ64 ♣AK532 ♦85 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A. — Obviously, you have two problems here: Do you rebid hearts or support spades? If the latter, is a simple raise sufficient? We don't feel you can afford to suppress good four-card support, so we would certainly raise spades. At the same time, we don't think you are strong enough in high cards to do more than raise to two spades. While that might risk missing a game, a jump to three spades could easily propel the auction to an uncomfortable level.

Q.6 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK102 ♥5 ♦KQ83 ♣AJ105
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A. — You have no safe action. A double would probably elicit a heart response from partner, and it is too risky to overcall at the two-level on a four-card suit. Pass and see how the auction develops — you might be able to double profitably later if the opponents become incautious.

Sri Lanka marks 38 years of independence

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka Tuesday celebrated 38 years of independence from Britain as President Junius Jayewardene called for national unity and the destruction of Tamil guerrillas seeking a separate state on the island.

Security forces were on alert after the government said 100 separatist guerrillas were killed by troops during the weekend.

But the authorities lifted curfews imposed Monday in the northern area of Kilinochchi and in central province.

On this day I promise to all the freedom-loving peaceful people of Sri Lanka that we shall, this year, overcome, destroy and eradicate terrorism in Sri Lanka in all its forms," Mr. Jayewardene said in an Independence Day message.

The president, who watched hundreds of children march and dance near parliament to traditional Sinhala and colonial British music in an historical pageant, said the "terrorist" threat was not only aimed at destroying democracy but at dismembering Sri Lanka and halting its social, economic and political development.

Mr. Jayewardene called on all "freedom loving democratic people" of the island to unite to destroy the guerrilla movement.

Prison officials said 500 convicts serving short sentences were released Tuesday under an Independence Day amnesty.

They said 90 other prisoners had death sentences commuted to life imprisonment while 5,000 were given reduced prison terms.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa was among seven leading civilians awarded Inde-

Lesotho ejects N. Koreans

MASERU (R) — Lesotho's new military leaders, in further moves to appease South Africa, have expelled 19 North Korean technicians from the country.

The Koreans, who worked on agricultural projects and the rebuilding of Lesotho's main sports stadium in the capital Maseru, were put on a chartered flight and flown out to Mozambique on Sunday.

A spokesman for the North Korean embassy said no reason was given for the expulsions. After seizing power on Jan. 20 in a coup brought about by intense South African economic pressure, Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya deported 57 South African refugees to Zambia.

Western diplomats said the move against the Koreans was also instigated by Pretoria. They said South Africa had demanded that the three Communist embassies allowed to open three years ago — those of the Soviet Union, China and North Korea — should be either downgraded or closed.

Most of the expelled 57 refugees were followers of the African National Congress (ANC), the principal black guerrilla group sworn to ending Pretoria's white dominance by force of arms.

At the weekend, the military rulers rounded up a further 50 refugees and told them to be ready for expulsion.

South Africa slapped a crippling economic clamp on Lesotho on Jan. 1, accusing the ousted regime of harbouring ANC guerrillas, although the charge was denied by Chief Leabua Jonathan, the veteran autocratic prime minister overthrown by last month's coup.

Political sources say Chief Lekhanya's bold moves to strengthen ties with Pretoria is causing division in the armed forces.

But Lesotho's new leader has made clear he intends to forge close links with South Africa, which encircles the tiny mountain kingdom.

Nigeria opens debate on future form of government

LAGOS (R) — President Ibrahim Babangida has urged Nigerians to start a national debate on what form of government is best for the country when its present military rulers hand over power as promised in October 1990.

Gen. Babangida has said he wants all Nigerians to contribute to the discussion, and has appointed a political bureau consisting mainly of academics to run the debate.

He says his government, which took control in a coup five months ago, will not stay in power a day longer than necessary. Nigeria has had two periods of civilian government since independence in 1960 and both were ended by coups.

In a statement Monday, the politburo, as it has become known, said the debate would be run in such a way as to ensure "adequate participation by the grassroots population."

It spelled out 28 topics for consideration and said trades unions, students and professional, academic, social and economic groups should organise debates. The public would be encouraged to write newspaper articles and join radio and television discussions.

Issues to be covered included how to set up a viable democratic system, the problems of tribal rivalries, the role of the armed forces,

S. African ministers expelled from whites-only restaurant

CAPE TOWN (R) — A new controversy over apartheid has developed over a group of coloured (mixed-race) members of the South African Parliament being turned away from a whites-only parliamentary restaurant.

About 25 of the MPs, two of them government ministers, were asked to leave Monday after going to a restaurant in the white section of the Tricamerall Parliament in an act of apparent defiance.

One of them, Peter Hendrickse, told reporters: "What makes it even more shocking and disgraceful is the fact that I'm not prohibited by law from going there — I'm prohibited by my colleagues in the (white) House of Assembly."

Others expelled included David Curry and Carter Ebrahim, government ministers in charge of coloured affairs.

Speaker of Parliament Johan Greeff said Tuesday the restaurant was a private place for the members of the House of Assembly. "It has got nothing to do with apartheid, it has got nothing to do with colour," he told Reuters.

Under a complex new constitution, whites, coloureds and Indians, but not blacks, are represented in separate chambers of parliament. Whites retain overall control but discuss legislation with the other MPs in parliamentary committees.

Many opponents of the government reject the new constitution, saying it entrenches apartheid. Those participating in public life under it argue they can dismantle apartheid from within the system.

There is a second restaurant in the white chamber which, after protests from Liberal MPs, now allows white parliamentarians to invite any guests they wish. There are also restaurants for coloured and Indian MPs.

"In God's name, when will they get it right?" Johannesburg's Business Day newspaper asked in an editorial Tuesday.

Campus violence continues in Dhaka

DHAKA (R) — Anti-government students set three residential halls on fire at Dhaka University and chased off bomb- and stone-throwing rivals as fresh violence flared on the campus Tuesday, police said.

The clashes erupted as pro-government students called a boycott of classes to protest against violence last weekend which they blamed on their opponents.

Firefighters extinguished the

Pakistanis attack church in anti-Israel protests

ISLAMABAD (R) — Muslim students protesting at alleged Israeli violations of Islamic holy places in Jerusalem ransacked a Roman Catholic Church in Pakistan's Punjab province, injuring at least nine people inside, church officials said Tuesday.

They said between 2,000 and 3,000 students, chanting slogans against Israel and the United States, took part in the hour-long attack on the Church of the Holy Cross at Rahimyar Khan before police dispersed them with tear gas and batons.

The protesters smashed windows of the church and the adjoining priest's house, set fire to the altar and Bible stand, stole the Bible, and damaged three church vehicles and furniture, the officials said.

Demonstrations were also held in Rawalpindi and Karachi Monday to condemn disturbances last month in Jerusalem near the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Muslim religious leaders in East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel in 1967, objected to a visit by 10 Israeli deputies to the mosque area.

Bishop calls shuttle blast a 'blessing in disguise'

LONDON (R) — A British bishop has said the U.S. space shuttle disaster could be a "blessing in disguise" if it delayed research into President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" programme.

Anglican Bishop of Birmingham Hugh Montefiore said in the House of Lords that Star Wars, officially known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), was morally retrogressive because it would introduce a new element of instability into international relations.

"It may turn out that the tragic demise of the shuttle Challenger is a blessing in disguise if it prevents or delays the development of SDI," he said.

The shuttle has been used in the past to carry out military experiments in space and was to have

played a key role as the SDI research programme into a space-based defence system developed.

Britain last year became the first country to sign an agreement with the U.S. on cooperation in SDI research.

Members of the ruling Conservative Party denounced Montefiore as a man who had abandoned compassion.

Junior Defence Minister Lord Trefgarne said the bishop should repeat what he said to the relatives of the seven victims of the disaster.

Conservative Parliamentarian Harry Greenway said Montefiore had given way to political prejudice.

"He has abandoned compassion for the bereaved and those seven brave, brilliant lives cut off in this tragic way," he said.

Paris blast injures 8

PARIS (R) — A bomb devastated a luxury shopping arcade off the central Champs Elysees Boulevard, injuring eight people, including three seriously, police said.

The bomb, planted in a dustbin outside a boutique Monday, shattered shop-windows and sent slivers of glass flying through the air. Police said the three badly injured were suffering from deep cuts. The others were treated on the spot.

"Glass was flying all over the place," U.S. tourist Tom Gabriel of Dayton, Ohio, said. "There was lots of smoke and people started running."

Rescue-workers called to the scene waded through water that began pouring through the arcade when the explosion triggered an

anti-fire security system.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility and police said they had no idea who planted the bomb.

The blast ripped through the two-storey arcade built under the Claridge Hotel at 9.30 p.m. (2030 GMT) as diners sat down for an evening meal in its restaurants and window-shoppers strolled in from the busy Champs Elysees Boulevard.

It came less than two months after 25 people were injured in successive bombings at two central Paris department stores crowded with Christmas shoppers on Dec. 7.

No one has been charged with the bombings.

Four Salvadorean peasants found dead

SAN SALVADOR (R) — The bodies of four brutally murdered Salvadoreans have been found by authorities, the second group of death squad-style killings here in the last week, judicial officials have said.

They said the decapitated bodies were discovered on the side of a road in San Jorge, a town about 100 kilometres east of the capital.

A judicial source in San Jorge said relatives of the four murdered peasants reported that unknown gunmen had dragged the victims from their homes on Saturday.

blazes before they could spread much, university staff said.

One police officer told Reuters several people were injured as students and teachers hurried away from campus. No arrests were made, he said.

Earlier, nearly 1,000 students and political activists burned down the office of the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the pro-government student group, near the university

as police watched from a distance.

A teachers' committee has been set up to probe bomb explosions and other violence which university officials said threatened the future of the 18,000 students.

The committee will suggest measures to end months of fighting between pro and anti-government students, vice-chancellor Dr. Abdul Mannan told reporters.

Human rights groups and diplomats said they feared more rightist death squad killings in response to peasant and labour unrest over economic measures Mr. Duarte imposed last month.

Briton held in Iran for nearly 2 months

TEHRAN (R) — A 50-year-old British businessman, Roger Cooper, has been arrested and held in Iran for nearly two months without any consular official seeing him, a spokesman for the British interests section of the Swedish embassy said Tuesday.

"We have had no formal notification of the charges against him, no formal notification of the reason why he is being held," the official said.

"We are not aware of any similar cases since the (1979 Islamic) Revolution," he added.

The spokesman said Cooper disappeared on the morning of Dec. 7. He was the local advertising representative of London's Financial Times newspaper and a salesman for the McDermott construction company Mc Dermott

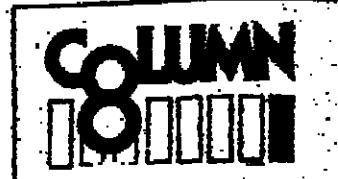
International, Inc.

Iranian sources said he was arrested by security personnel and the British spokesman said Iranian officials had confirmed the detention.

He said the British interests section in Tehran had made frequent representations to the Iranian authorities about Cooper since Dec. 7 and that high-level contacts had also taken place in London and elsewhere.

Friends said Cooper arrived in Tehran last July but he had told them that although he continued to work, he was under investigation by police and could not leave the country.

Cooper is divorced from an Iranian wife and has one daughter, a medical student in London, the British official said.



Women's expedition sets out to North Pole

TROMSOE, Norway (R) — Six French and two Canadian women left this northern Norwegian port Tuesday to begin the first all-women expedition to the North Pole. Madeleine Grisein, leader of the 1,100-kilometre expedition, told reporters the group would fly to the Arctic islands of Spitzbergen before setting out for the pole on skis. She said the expedition would take about 100 days, leaving Spitzbergen, where pack ice stretching to the pole begins, on Feb. 20. Grisein said the expedition was primarily scientific and would include planting radio tracking devices to be monitored by satellite along their path to record east-west movements in the polar ice cap.

Bhutto's valet found murdered

KARACHI (R) — The valet of executed former Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was found dead after being suffocated with a gag at his home in Karachi, police said. A 16-year-old niece of the valet had been stabbed to death in another room. Police said Noor Moha-nad Mughal, 50, was found with his hands and feet tied, sticky tape over his mouth and his nostrils filled with cotton wool. His niece Shahnaz had been killed with a dagger. The police said they did not yet know the motive for the killings. Mughal, nicknamed "Noon", was Bhutto's valet until the former prime minister, ousted in a military coup led by present President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, was taken to jail in September 1977. In 1970 Mughal buried himself in front of his master as a shield when gunmen shot at Bhutto during an election rally in the province of Sind. Both men escaped the attack unhurt.

Indonesia is world's largest contraceptive pill consumer

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, the world's fifth most populous country, is the largest user of contraceptive pills, the official Antara News Agency said Tuesday. It quoted an official of the National Family Planning Board as saying some 600 million packages of contraceptive pills are taken every year in this nation of 165 million people. About 14 million couples have joined Indonesia's family planning programme, with 20,000 new couples added every month, according to the board. Meanwhile, Minister of Population and Environment Erni Salim predicted that Indonesia's population would grow to 225 million by the year 2000, Antara said.

Insect bites 'may carry AIDS virus'

LONDON (R) — Insect bites, particularly from blood-sucking parasites, could be one cause of spreading the killer disease AIDS, according to an article published in a London-based medical journal. Dr. Danny Connolly, writing in Hospital Doctor, said strong evidence was emerging to indicate insects were the source of a large number of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) infections of unknown origin. He said the HTLV-III organism which produces AIDS would be highly unusual if it was not transmissible in that way. "Even Hepatitis B, which is normally spread by oral, venereal, injective and transfusional means has also been associated with insects," he said. Dr. Connolly, a microbiologist at the Human Factors Centre in London, said that over the past two years he had examined data on AIDS gathered by the U.S. Centre for Disease Control at Atlanta, Georgia. He defends his proposition saying it was similar to the 19th Century theory of the mosquito transmission of malaria which was also derided at the time.

China to unearth 2,000 more terracotta horses and soldiers

PEKING (R) — About 2,000 more life-size terracotta horses and model soldiers will be unearthed this year from one of China's richest archaeological finds, the New China News Agency said Tuesday. It quoted archaeologists at Xian in central China as saying that the 2,000 would be added to 714 similar figures on display at a museum near Xian.